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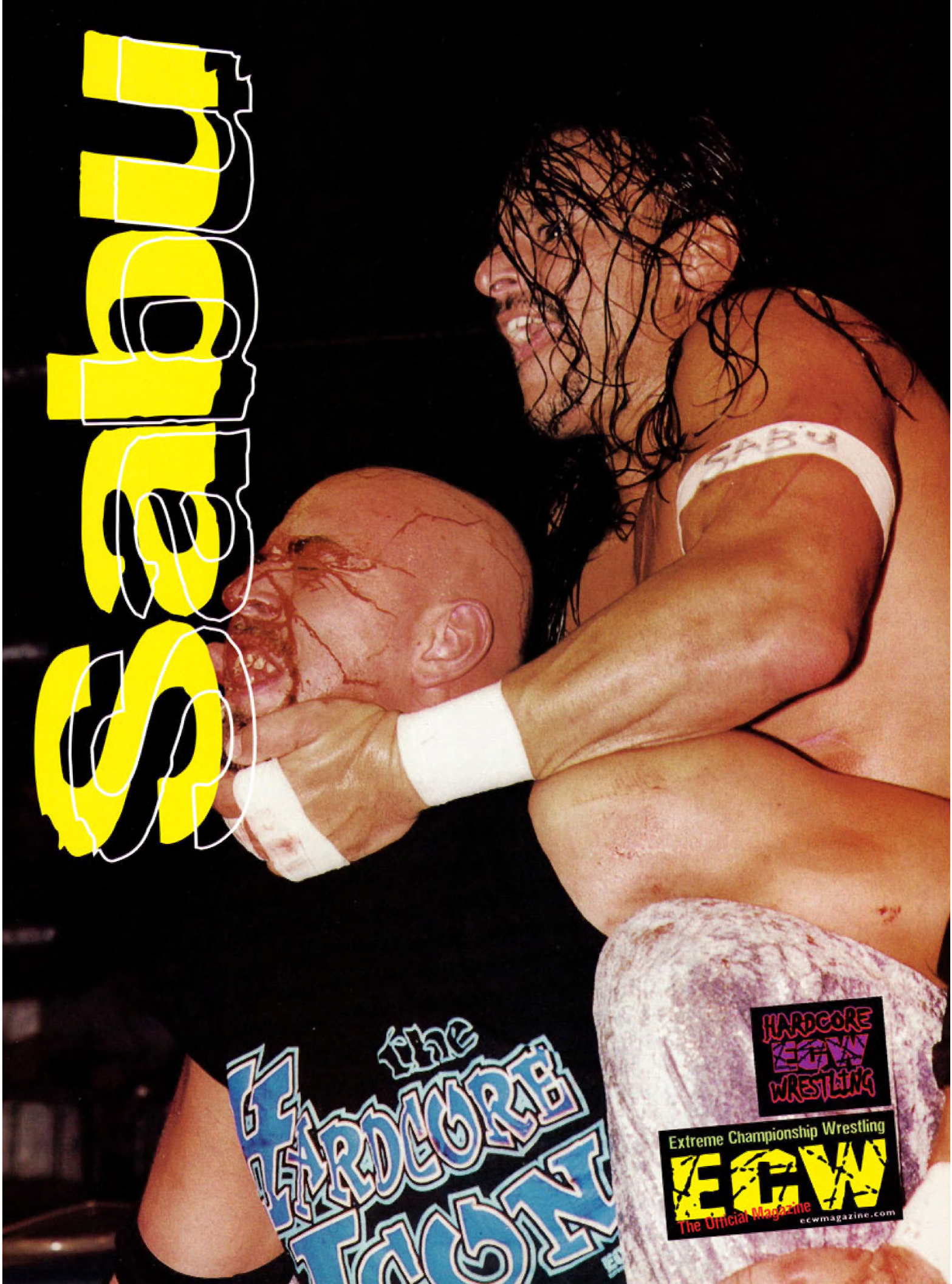
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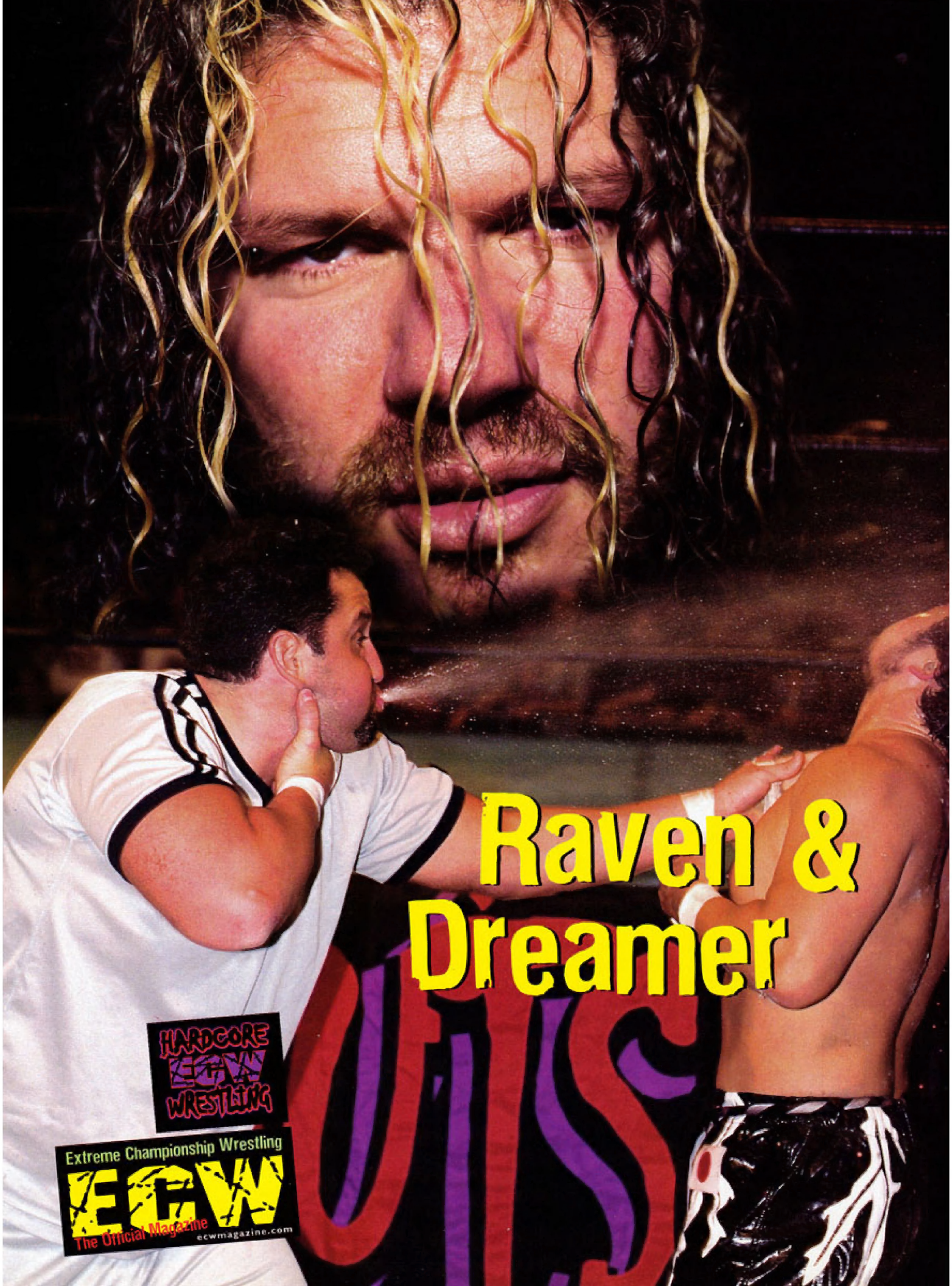
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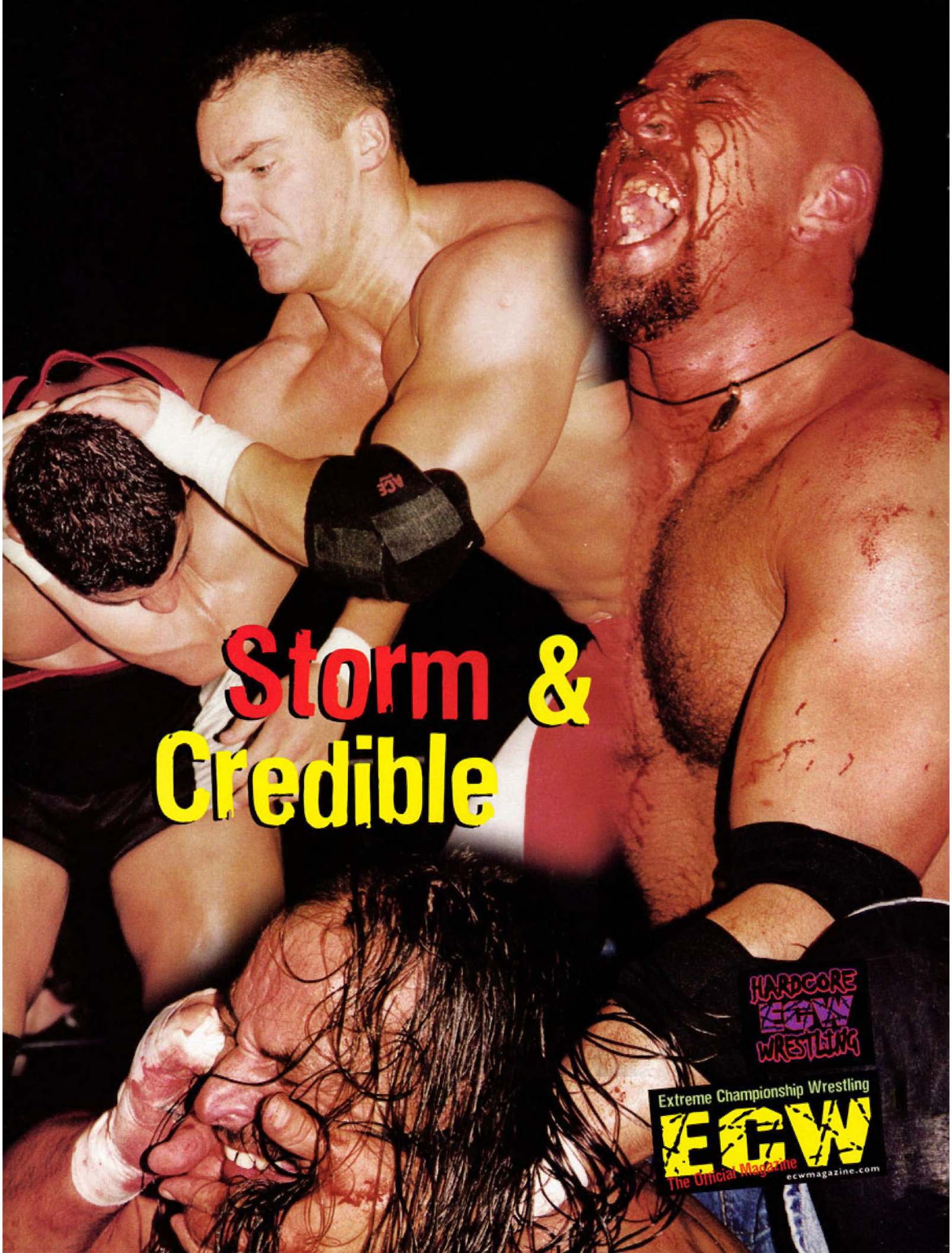
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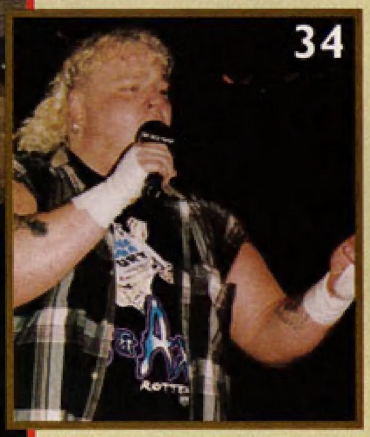

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For more ECW news, visit the federation's official site: http://www.ecwwrestling.com
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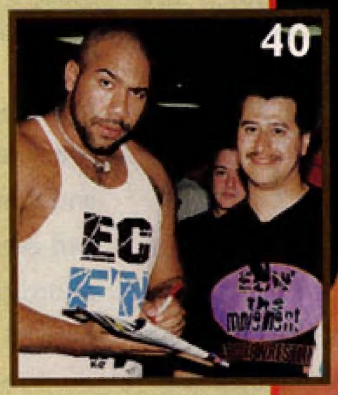

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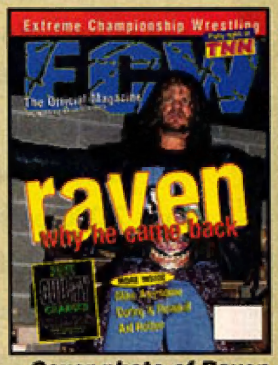

Cover photo of Raven by S. Connor

Joey Styles is the voice of ECW's television programs and live pay-per-view events. Styles also manages ***www.ECWwrestling.com*** *and the* ***ECW Hardcore Hotline at (900) 737-4ECW.***

ECW ACHIEVES PERFECTION - FOR NOW

On Sunday, Sept. 19, 1999, Extreme Championship Wrestling presented what was, in my opinion, the most successful show – pay-per-view or otherwise – in the company's history, Anarchy Rulz. In this issue of ECW Magazine, **Dave Scherer** of ECWwrestling.com and 1wrestling.com describes what happened in the ring at this historic event. These occurrences were some of the most exciting I have had the pleasure of calling.

However, as a member of ECW's behind-the-scenes team, or the imaginary "office" that my broadcast colleague, **Cyrus**, loves to refer to, I must analyze ECW as a marketer as much as I do as a performer. Keeping that in mind, I loved Anarchy Rulz. One month before the event, Chicago area fans gobbled up 5,000 tickets and Team ECW (which includes you fans) had its first advance sellout. Answering the demands of our fans, we changed the layout of The Odeum in suburban Villa Park, Ill., to accommodate another 1,000 seats, and they sold out as well. More than 6,000 fans paid a total of more than $200,000 to see Anarchy Rulz live. It was the largest live crowd in ECW's history.

Furthermore, the day before the event, more than 2,000 enthusiastic fans stormed The Odeum for a Fan Fest. I had a great time signing autographs, taking photos and shaking hands with some of the most fun, respectful and knowledgeable fans I had ever met. Three hours blew by like three minutes, and none of us left until all of the fans in attendance had every autograph they wanted signed, every photo they wanted snapped and every hand they wanted shook. The fans really had fun, and so did I.

I realize that 6,000 fans and $200,000 hardly compares to the numbers that World Championship Wrestling and the World Wrestling Federation produce. I want ECW to draw a 3.0 rating on TNN and draw 20,000 fans to an event, and I want it now. However, I can remember when the ECW revolution began six years ago and we were doing television tapings for one local station in front of 200 people who paid nothing to see the event. As a performer, marketer, and person in general, I am admittedly an impatient perfectionist. This makes me a real pain in the ass to work with (just ask **Paul E.** and clear your schedule for at least two hours to listen to him).

Thankfully, keeping things in perspective by looking to ECW's past and the numerous times our future looked bleak has taught me patience and made me appreciate and marvel at how far we have come. Six years from now, I expect to be writing a column about the humble days of 1999, when ECW drew only 6,000 fans and $200,000 at the first Anarchy Rulz. ecw

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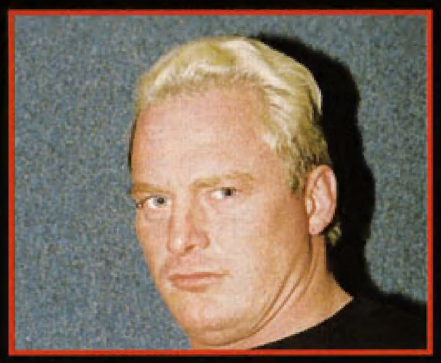

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the whole f'n mailbag

compiled by brad perkins

C IS FOR CORINO, THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME

I've been an Extreme Championship Wrestling fan for about three and a half years, but my main thought is about Steve Corino. Love him or hate him, Corino is a good and talented wrestler, but he's more of a whiner than a wrestler. But still, if you think about it, Corino could make it to the top if he keeps his mouth shut. But hey, who can you blame, he's got "The Rookie Monster" Rhino at his side. With him, he can't be stopped. Well, maybe.

Travis Woodson TWOOD43715@aol.com

Brad says: Dude! What the hell are you talking about?

ECW'S NOT JUST THE COOLEST ...

I'm a 19-year-old wrestling fan who is a first-time reader of your magazine. I liked the story of Justin Credible and his ride to the top in ECW and I also liked the pictures of Francine, Tommy Dreamer, Lance Storm, and Joey Styles' section. You guys kick some serious ass, and I never miss the ECW telecast on TNN every Friday night.

Sam Moxley, Aberdeen, Md.

E-C-DUB RULES NORTH OF THE BORDER

I have been an "ECW-aholic" for about two and a half years. Every day that love for your hardcore wrestling grows stronger. I would like to say what a thrill it is to watch your show on TNN and finally our first taste of live ECW pay-per-view up here in Canada – Anarchy Rulz. I would like to thank Paul Heyman and the entire staff of ECW for your magazine, television shows, pay-per-views, toys and CDs – they all kick ass.

Matthew MacMartin
Ottawa

CLIMBING TO THE TOP

I'm just writing to say that the articles in ECW Magazine about Justin Credible and Jerry Lynn are awesome! I am a big fan of both Lynn and Credible and the articles really let me in on what it took for them to be two of the top guys in ECW, and it shed some light on their background and wrestling careers. Thank you very much for putting these articles in, and I hope that there are more about other ECW stars in the near future.

Matt Richmond
richpile23@hotmail.com

Brad says: Hey, this is the official magazine, of course we're gonna put more stories about ECW stars in it!

EVER HEAR OF A VCR?

Last issue I read where someone missed their graduation for an ECW event. Impressive, but I did too. Only I wasn't in attendance for the event. It was the TV show. How's that for hardcore? I showed up unfashionably late for my grandparents' 50th anniversary because Tommy Dreamer, The Sandman and The Franchise were teaming up. I couldn't miss that one. I have many other stories about not doing something because ECW was coming on. Since 1995 I have missed a total of four TV shows due to my error, (four or five more because of America One Television).

Adam C. McCloskey
adouglas88@hotmail.com

REBOUNDS AND SUPLEXES

ECW should bring Dennis Rodman into the organization. Dennis Rodman could be the next ECW world champion. Rodman vs. Mike Awesome could be a spectacular match for all fans to witness.

Jesse Leal, username@UTB1.UTB.EDU

Brad says: Great idea, maybe Michael Jordan can come in, too, and fight Super Crazy. He is a high flyer after all.

WRESTLING GROUPIES UNITE

I am writing to comment on one of your "meet ECW" events you held in Chicago the weekend of the Anarchy Rulz pay-per-view. I went to "meet ECW," and I can't say enough good things about the wrestlers I met there! I came to the event thinking it would just be a big autograph signing session, but it turned out to be one hell of an f'n party! The ECW roster definitely makes it the most kick-ass professional wrestling promotion in the world.

Matt Johnson Riggs666@juno.com

YOU SAY GOODBYE, I SAY HELLO

I want to welcome back one of ECW's greatest stars, and say goodbye to another. It was great to see Raven come back to ECW. He was never used like he should have been in World Championship Wrestling, and did not fit in. He finally is back where he truly belongs. I loved the smile on his face when he looked at Tommy Dreamer, showing that they had to live with each other as tag team champions. He truly looked happy that night in Queens, N.Y., and all the fans there, and watching on TV, were just as happy to see him back.

Now, for the goodbye, I was, like most other fans, a little mad when I heard that Taz signed with the World Wrestling Federation. But, after thinking about it, he is doing it to further his career, support his wife and son, and also go kick some ass where he hasn't been able to yet. I have been a fan of ECW since the first show I ever saw, Holiday Hell 1995, and have always been a Taz fan. I will miss watching him kick ass in ECW, but look forward to seeing him do it in the WWF. Hopefully Austin will be on that list. So, as one of many Taz fans, I say goodbye to him, and good luck. We all hope and look forward to a possible return someday. ECW won't be the same without you, Human Suplex Machine.

ftwscott@aol.com

We get a lot of e-mails at ECW Magazine inquiring about fan clubs and Web sites to learn more about your favorite wrestling federation. Here is a short list of groups and sites to enhance your ECW experience:

Gabe Sapolsky Online: gabeecw.8m.com
Gabe Sapolsky, an ECW office employee who travels with the company and publishes the event program, has a Web site that offers a weekly column detailing his travels and experiences with ECW. The site also includes insider ECW news and a historic look at the ECW program.

Just ECW: www.Just-ECW.com
Just ECW is a Web site dedicated solely to Extreme Championship Wrestling. Come and see what everyone is talking about. Remember the name: Just ECW – All ECW all the time.

Official Rob Van Dam homepage: www.robvandam.com
Robvandam.com brings you information and news about the ECW television champion.

Strictly ECW: www.strictlyecw.com
The genesis of the ECW fan movement, contact Tony Lewis at tonysecw@aol.com for more information.

Got something to say? Keep your letters short and please include your full name, address and daytime phone number for verification (address and phone numbers will not be published). Send your letters to:
ECW Magazine, c/o H&S Media, Inc. 2121 Waukegan Road Suite 120 Bannockburn, IL, 60015.
Or e-mail your letter to: **ecw@hsmedia.com**

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NEWS & RUMORS

DAWN MARIE TO SHOW FRANCINE JUST HOW HARDCORE SHE CAN GET

Francine

Lance Storm's valet Dawn Marie has said she wants to prove she is the most extreme female in ECW. She set out to prove that on Oct. 9, 1999, in New Orleans by attacking and laying out both Tammy Lynn Sytch and Miss Congeniality. Dawn Marie then challenged "The Queen Of Extreme" Francine, and a short catfight was interrupted by world tag team champions Tommy Dreamer and Raven and The Impact Players, Lance Storm and Justin Credible.

"I haven't backed down from anyone during my whole career in ECW," Francine said. "I'm sure not going to back down from Dawn Marie. If Dawn Marie wants to get hardcore with me, let's get it on."

Dawn Marie

TAJIRI BARBECUES LYNN'S RIBS

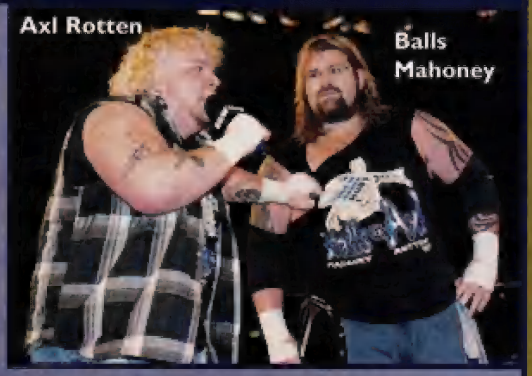
"The Japanese Buzzsaw" Yoshihiro Tajiri attacked Jerry Lynn in the locker room when Lynn confronted Steve Corino. The anti-hardcore Corino insulted Lynn during a backstage interview, causing Lynn to pursue Corino into a private locker room. Tajiri kicked Lynn in the ribs, causing "The New F'N Show" to miss some action. Lynn's ribs were previously softened up by The Impact Players on earlier shows. Lynn should be back in action by press time.

Tajiri

"Tajiri isn't going to make a name at my expense," Lynn said. "I was looking forward to going hold for hold with Tajiri, but now I'm looking for revenge. I'm coming right after him as soon as I get back into action."

FURNITURE-WIELDING NUTS RE-INVADE ECW

The "Hardcore Chair Swinging Freaks," Balls Mahoney and Axl Rotten, have reformed their full-time tag team. The longtime duo of Mahoney and Rotten had always remained friends despite their bloody matches against each other. Mahoney and Rotten form the most hardcore team in the world. They have been targeted lately by a new group consisting of Spanish Angel, Tony Devito and Vito "The Skull" LoGrasso, known as "The Baldies."


Axl Rotten
Balls Mahoney

"You can say Balls and I got a little aggression out in our matches against each other," Rotten said. "We were always brothers and now we are back and ready for any team in ECW. We are going to bring hardcore to a whole new level."

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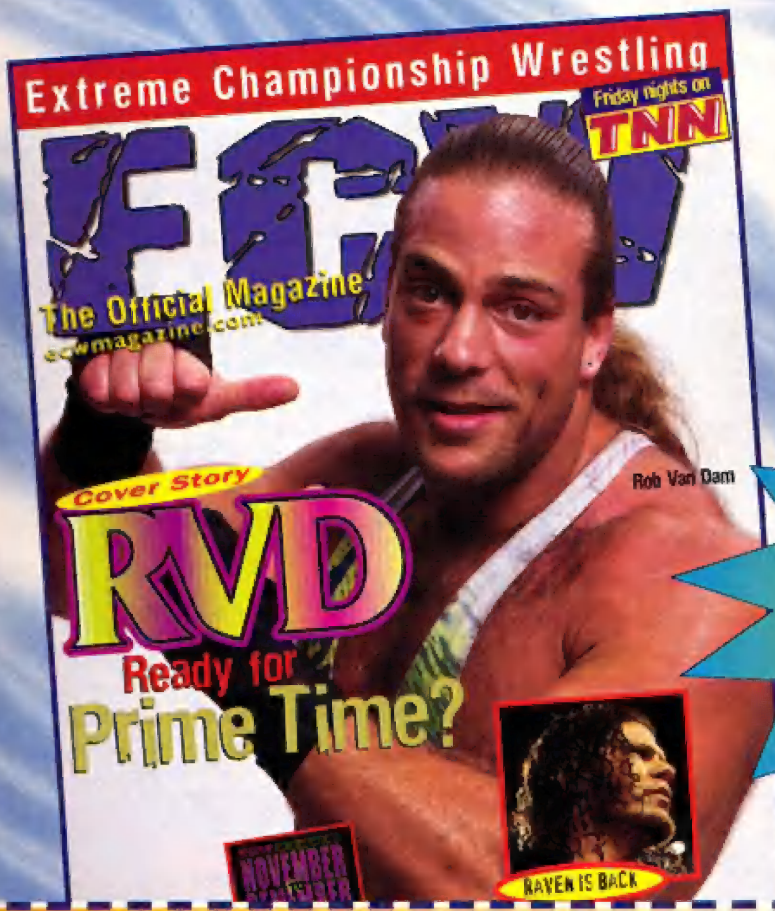

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THE EXTREME INTELLECTUAL

BY CYRUS

CYRUS HEARS YOUR CRIES

As Extreme Championship Wrestling on TNN catches on like a – dare I say – virus, I sit in Winnipeg in my priapic, intellectual ivory tower and I ask the question that many of you have also asked: Where is **Cyrus**?

While watching a recent ECW on TNN broadcast, I noticed an obviously enlightened young wrestling fan in the front row brandishing a sign that read: **CYRUS = RATINGS.**

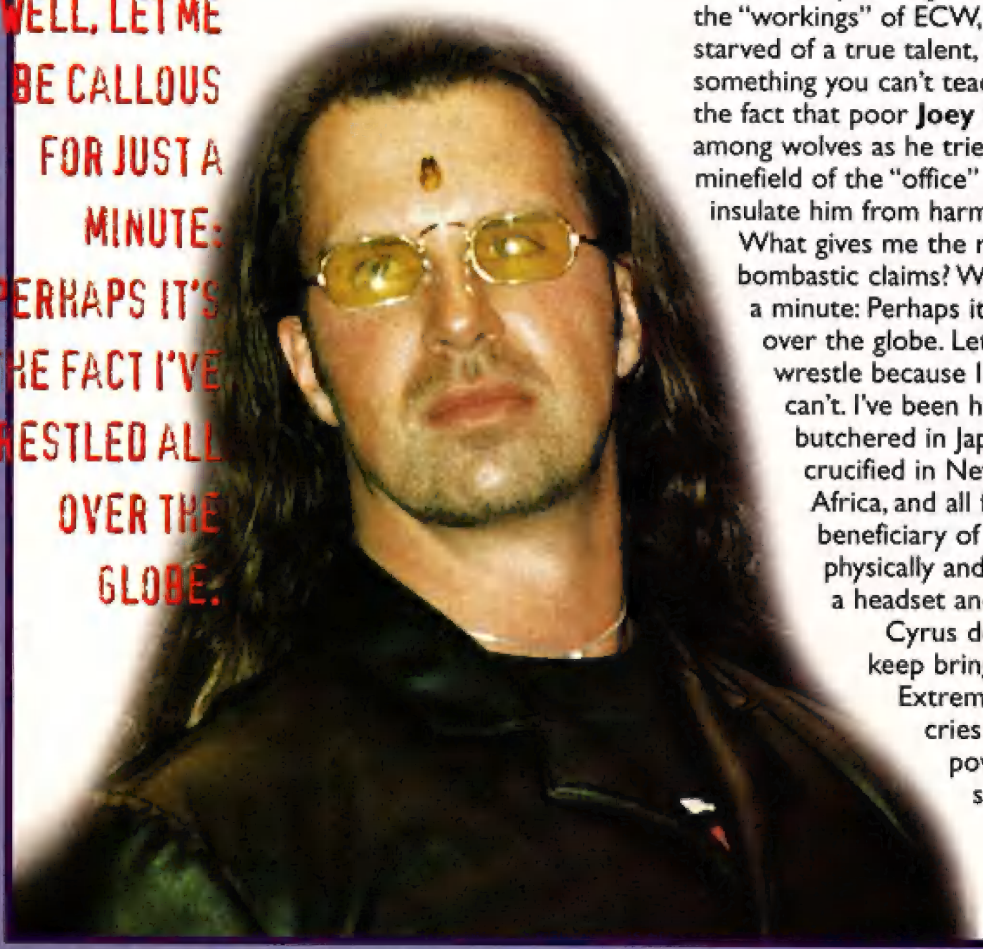
While it does not take a rocket scientist to state the obvious, I must admit I was moved by one fan's grassroots attempt to open the eyes of the powers that be.

So, your next query would be: What's it like to be the Absolute Best Color Commentator in wrestling, only to be banned from television? It probably feels a lot like having **Rob Van Dam** on your roster, and then telling him not to do anything athletic in the ring. Or like telling **Tommy Dreamer** to stop being so hardcore. To use your vernacular, it sucks.

Our society rewards idiocy and fears talent and intelligence. One need only to observe our elected officials for proof of that sad fact. To my dismay, I find the wrestling industry caught in a similar morass of mediocrity and insecure paranoia. The fans cry for enlightenment – and they cry for Cyrus – but their wails of protestation fall on deaf ears.

Besides yearning for my unequaled insights into the "workings" of ECW, you the fan are being starved of a true talent, a man who brandishes something you can't teach: charisma. Not to mention the fact that poor **Joey Styles** is a virgin sheep among wolves as he tries to negotiate the political minefield of the "office" without me there to insulate him from harm.

WELL, LET ME BE CALLOUS FOR JUST A MINUTE: PERHAPS IT'S THE FACT I'VE WRESTLED ALL OVER THE GLOBE.



What gives me the right to make these bombastic claims? Well, let me be callous for just a minute: Perhaps it's the fact I've wrestled all over the globe. Let's be clear: I refuse to wrestle because I don't need to, not because I can't. I've been held hostage in Lebanon, butchered in Japan, mobbed in Germany, crucified in New York and lynched in South Africa, and all for what? You the fan are the beneficiary of my vast experience, both physically and politically, every time I don a headset and make Joey Styles a star.

Cyrus does indeed equal ratings, so keep bringing your signs. The Extreme Intellectual hears your cries in the night. Hopefully the powers that be will be prescient enough to listen.

ADIEU.

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2517 **Best of Rob Van Dam: He's the F'N Show:** Features RVD's greatest ECW matches. Opponents are a who's who in wrestling including Bam Bam Bigelow, Lance Storm, Jerry Lynn, Raven, Chris Jericho & more. After viewing this 2 hour tape you will agree that RVD is the whole F'N show.

2437 **Best of Sabu Volume 16: Lord of the Hardcores:** Witness this Homicidal, Suicidal, Genocidal Maniac develop into the Lord of Hardcores. View the match against the Sandman & Tommy Dreamer where he gets his teeth shattered on a table leg or battles his greatest rival Taz to a 30 minute hardcore draw! Also recap the feud against the Sandman as everything is legal in these wars!!! 2 hrs. of action.

2618 **Best of Taz: Survive If He Let's You!:** Witness the current ECW Champion in some of his greatest battles. The orange and black attack battles all including Sabu, Lance Storm, Jerry Lynn, Chris Jericho, The Dudleys, and possibly his wildest matches ever against Bam Bam Bigelow 2hrs. of hardcore action.

2328 **Best of Raven in ECW:** Features the former ECW Champion in his greatest matches ever. Watch as he battles his greatest rivals Tommy Dreamer & Sandman in death matches, cage matches and the famous final confrontation of Raven & Dreamer. Other opponents featured are Terry Gordy, Steve Williams, Stevie Richards, Terry Funk & more. 4 hrs.

2332 **Best of Chris Jericho in ECW:** Features this exciting superstar against ECW's best including Sabu, 2 Cold Scorpio, The Eliminators, Rob Van Dam and more. Also his greatest matches from Japan are included against the likes of Ultimo Dragon, Gedo, Yoshihiro Tajiri & more! 4 hrs. of excitement!

2722 **Best of the Sandman in ECW:** Blood, Sweat, and Beers is the theme for this video, as the Hardcore Icon fights all. Witness Sandman's unique extreme style against Tommy Dreamer, Cactus Jack, Raven, Sabu, Justin Credible and a whole host of others. If you like violence then this video is for you!!! 4 hrs.

2617 **The Extreme 3 -Way: Sytch, Bytch & Francine:** Check out the extreme girls of ECW battling out against one another. Forget the rest because when the ECW girls are in there, because it is a sight to be seen. The girls are just as tough as their male counterparts Shane, Storm, and Candido plus they look a little better as well! 2 hrs. of action.

2612 **ECW: The Extreme Matches:** You want barbed wire. You want ladders. You want scaffolds. Well here it is, the granddaddy of them all. All of ECW's violent and hard-core matches of all time are featured in this extreme collection. Witness Dreamer, Sandman, Cactus, Funk, Raven, Brian Lee, Credible & a whole lot more take it to the Ultimate Extreme! 4 hrs.

1394 **IWA: King of the Death Match Tournament '95: Kawasaki Dream:** The most infamous tape of all time as the legends of hardcore battle it out in a tournament featuring barbed wire, thumbtacks, glass, nails, chains, chainsaws and more. Features the main event of Terry Funk vs. Cactus Jack in a barbed wire explosion match! Others features are Tiger Jeet Singh, Headhunters, Leatherface, Nakamaki, Ono, Gordy, and much more! 2 hrs. 40 min.

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16 QUESTIONS WITH YOSHIHIRO TAJIRI

BY GABE SAPOLSKY

'JAPANESE BUZZSAW' KICKS HIS WAY THROUGH ECW ROSTER

Since joining Extreme Championship Wrestling in the beginning of 1999, Yoshihiro Tajiri has proven to be a perfect fit for the federation. From his bloody, barbed-wire beating at the hands of Taz at Heat Wave on July 18 to his victory over Little Guido and Super Crazy during a three-way dance at Anarchy Rulz on Sept. 19, Tajiri solidified the brutal reputation he built as a wrestler in Japan.

Tajiri is currently a soldier in Steve Corino's war against hardcore wrestling. The following is an interview with the "Japanese Buzzsaw" conducted through an interpreter.

Q1. Do you like wrestling in the United States?

A. I like it except for the people. They are really ignorant and disrespectful. This has become a home to me, though. In Japan, I was also considered a rebel, I never really fit in. I am much more comfortable here. I get paid the most money here. I'd say that's my favorite thing about the United States.

Q2. Have you picked up a lot of English?

A. I'm learning very quickly. I know a lot of phrases, for instance (now speaking in English): "ECW fans are white trash" (now back to Japanese through the interpreter). I'm very intelligent so my English improves every day. I learned Spanish while I was in Mexico. Soon I'll be fluent in three languages.

Q3. How does Mexico compare to the United States?

A. I'm supposed to answer that in one paragraph? They are very different. I can live in Mexico, Japan or the United States with equal ease.

Q4. How do the different promotions you've worked for compare?

A. ECW has been my favorite promotion. I'm on national television every week here, I get the biggest checks of my career, I'm in a video game and everywhere I go I can find someone to kiss my ass because they know how good I am.

Q5. Have you had difficulty getting around in the United States?

A. Not really. A guy named Doug Gentry has actually helped me a lot. I call him and he drives me wherever I want. If I need something done around the apartment, he comes running. If I ask for a favor, he does it. He's such a mark. It makes me laugh. It's like I have my own butler.

Q6. Why don't you have respect for the ECW fans?

A. Like I said earlier, most of them are ignorant white trash. They chant items off a Chinese food menu at me. They are too stupid to even know that I am Japanese. Most of them couldn't tell the difference between a Japanese, Chinese and Korean guy if they were all standing next to each other with their country's flags hanging over their heads. That is pure ignorance.

Q7 How do you explain your change in appearance and attitude since you entered ECW?

A. This is the real me. I acted polite and quiet when I first got here because I was trying to earn a job. Now that I have cemented my place in ECW as a star, I can do and act however I want. You can say I put on an act and that I worked the ECW fans. Their stupid minds stereotyped me as a nice, little foreigner. Well, that's not me. I'm the Japanese buzzsaw and I'm the most dangerous athlete in ECW. I'm after the big money and I'll do anything to get it.

Q8. That includes aligning with Steve Corino?

A. He pays me the best. I'm not here to make friends. I'm here to make as much money as I can. There were two things that attracted me to wrestling. I wanted to travel and I wanted to make money. So far in ECW I've been very successful at both.

Q9. How did you come up with the idea for The Tarantula?

A. That has to be one of the stupidest questions I've ever been asked. I'm proficient in Japanese, American and Mexican wrestling styles and kick boxing. I know every pressure point and every way possible to twist and turn your body. I know more wrestling holds than most wrestlers, for instance Tommy Dreamer, will ever forget. The Tarantula is just what happens when I apply my immense knowledge to the ring.

Q10. Which wrestling style do you prefer?

A. It really doesn't matter to me. I'm a machine. I just win and make money.

Q11. Who has influenced your career?

A. Of course Kendo Nagasaki who trained me. I'd say from Mexico it would be Negro Casas. I have learned many things from him that I do today in ECW. As far as non-wrestlers, Victor Quinones, who booked me in ECW, has been very influential to me in and out of the ring. Victor has played a huge role in my success.

Here are the names of some people you have been involved with in ECW. What are your opinions of them?

Q12. Steve Corino

A. He is one of the most intelligent people I have met. Did I mention he pays me real well?

Q13. Jack Victory

A. A true legend in the business. It is an honor to be associated with him.

Q14. Tommy Dreamer

A. I have shown respect for everyone mentioned, but I cannot do that for Tommy Dreamer. I hate everything that Dreamer stands for. I really take pleasure in hurting him and anything that is dear to him. That is why I sprayed Francine in the face [on July 31 at ECW Arena in Philadelphia]. I will make him suffer and I will break his back and put him out for good.

Q15. Super Crazy

A. Crazy and I were once very good friends. The rivalry we have had in ECW has destroyed that friendship. I think he's just getting jealous because I'm winning more of the matches. He is definitely one of the best lucha libre wrestlers in the world and a great athlete, but I'm better.

Q16. Jerry Lynn

A. I've been in the ring with the best of Japan, like Jushin Liger, the top wrestlers of two Mexican promotions and many of the top stars in America. Jerry Lynn is one of the best technical wrestlers I have ever faced. He is flawless, except for one thing: He is weak. He is always injured and that always gives me a body part to kick the hell out of. If I know Lynn has injured ribs, you better believe I'm going to kick and chop those ribs until he cannot breathe. That is why he will never beat me. ecw

FLIGHT OF RAVEN

Raven returns to ECW roost and broods about life

by S. Connor

FLIGHT OF RAVEN

RAVEN RETURNED TO EXTREME CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING on Aug. 26 and shook the foundation of the promotion. At the first TNN taping at the Elks Lodge in Queens, N.Y., he paired with longtime nemesis Tommy Dreamer and beat The Dudley Boyz to claim the ECW world tag team title.

In the following interview, Raven talks about his days in World Championship Wrestling, his childhood and his motivation for returning to ECW.

A CHILLING CHILDHOOD

Q. WHAT KIND OF CHILDHOOD DID YOU HAVE?

A. A miserable one. No one liked me. I was very unpopular and I was starved for attention because my dad never told me he loved me. I was extremely outgoing, loud and obnoxious just to get any kind of attention.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY BROTHERS OR SISTERS?

A. I have an older sister but she had mental problems of her own. In fact she has emotional problems that are bad enough that she gets disability from the government. She also has very poor health problems, but she's a great person.

Q. WAS THERE ANYTHING YOU COULD HAVE DONE TO MAKE YOUR CHILDHOOD BETTER?

A. I probably could have stopped picking on her and abusing her. I was embarrassed by her problems and I took it out on her. It wasn't her fault she was that way, which left me with even more guilt for being cruel to her because I thought she was embarrassing me. It just snowballed.

Q. DO YOU BLAME THESE PROBLEMS ON YOUR PARENTS' LACK OF ATTENTION?

A. Yes, complete lack of attention. I also have a fragile brain chemistry to begin with. My sister is actually unipolar. She's just depressed. I'm bipolar, I'm manic/depressive. I needed more attention than your basic kid to begin with but I got less than your average person so it was a double whammy. My parents were so wrapped up in my sister's problems they didn't give me any attention. I had problems just as bad as her but apparently I hid behind an armor that was thick enough and it was such a good act that nobody saw through it.

Unlikely tag team: Tommy Dreamer and Raven

Raven pulls Rhino off Tommy Dreamer

But they should have seen through it. They are my parents. My I.Q. was 143 and they should have realized how special I was. If not special, then I should have been treated like any normal person. I often envied kids that at least got beat by their parents. If they got beat, at least they knew that their parents cared. Mine were indifferent. Indifference is the greatest cruelty of all.

ABOUT RINGMANSHIP

Q. HOW IMPORTANT ARE MICROPHONE SKILLS IN WRESTLING?

A. The greatest interviews in the history of the business were Mankind's interviews as Cactus Jack in ECW. I don't think anyone will ever cut promos better. Like a Seinfield episode, he went all over the place, but at the end the whole story came together in a neat little bundle. Cactus was always teaching you something. Austin is tremendous. In World Championship Wrestling, as far as charisma, I'm a big fan of Konnan. He is one of the most charismatic guys ever. Rey Mysterio Jr. is one of the greatest pure

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athletes I've ever seen in my life. In ECW, Axl Rotten is absolutely remarkable. Rotten can actually wrestle scientifically as smoothly and as well as anybody. If he dropped 30 pounds and Paul Heyman [owner of ECW] gave him a chance to really prove himself, all of a sudden you'd have a new major star.

WCW STRIKES OUT

Q. WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR CAREER IN WCW?

A. I was never allowed in the "big 10" of WCW. I wasn't popular enough and I didn't get my shot. Anybody who truly has seen my work with an unjaded and uncynical eye would probably include me in the top 10. I haven't drawn money in the major territories because I've never been in the position.

Q. SOME OF YOUR GIMMICKS: SCOTTY THE BODY, JOHNNY POLO, SCOTTY FLAMINGO. WERE THEY REALLY YOU?

A. Yes they were. I'm a manic depressive! Scotty the Body was a character I created. The World Wrestling Federation gave me Johnny Polo and Dusty Rhodes gave me Scotty Flamingo – offshoots of Scotty the Body, one of my original names. I wanted to be the most flamboyant, obnoxious, abrasive, loudmouth chickens---heel I could be because I knew it would give me the attention I craved. If I didn't get the attention at home, I wanted the adulation of strangers. I found along the way it's no substitute, but it does to an extent alleviate some of the anguish and pain. If you talk to the boys in the WCW locker room, Konnan, Saturn or Disco Inferno would say either I am the most moody prick on the planet or the most wise ass goofy bastard you ever met.

SUCKING UP?

Q. WHAT WERE YOUR DAYS LIKE BEHIND THE SCENES FOR WWF?

A. When I was working for Vince McMahon [owner of the WWF] as associate producer of RAW, Vince made me put on a suit and tie. It was killing me. As soon as I was done producing, the sh-t would come off and I would put on a pair of ripped up jeans, a pair of boots, a T-shirt and leather jacket. That's who I am. Me and Shane McMahon became really good friends. I was an original member of the Mean Street Posse, because me, Shane, Rodney and Pete Gas used to hang out all the time. I think it's kind of amusing that Raven's actually a Mean Street Posse member and they all dress in their ivy league clothes. Me and Shane are really close friends. I can't say anything bad about him. We used to hang out constantly. It was funny because all of the boys would say, "You're just

'My parents were so wrapped up in my sister's problems they never gave me any attention.'

RAVEN-DREAMER SAGA LIVES ON

SINCE RAVEN RETURNED TO EXTREME CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING ON AUG. 26, HIS LEGENDARY FEUD WITH TOMMY DREAMER HAS BEEN REVIVED.

AS KIDS, THE TWO WERE BEST FRIENDS UNTIL A GIRL NAMED BEULAH CAME BETWEEN THEM. DREAMER STOLE BEULAH FROM RAVEN, EVEN THOUGH HE DIDN'T REALLY WANT HER. WHEN SHE CAME BACK INTO THEIR LIVES IN ECW, OLD HATRED BETWEEN RAVEN AND DREAMER ROSE UP AND DROVE THE TWO TO FIGHT THEIR BATTLES IN THE RING.

DESPITE THEIR HATRED, THE TWO BECAME ECW WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS WHEN RAVEN RETURNED TO THE FEDERATION ON AUG. 26. THROUGHOUT SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER OF 1999, DREAMER WAS UNABLE TO DEFEND THE TITLE BECAUSE OF AN INJURED BACK. RAVEN ONLY INVOLVED HIMSELF IN THE MATCHES AT THE END TO ENSURE THE TWO UNLIKELY PARTNERS KEPT THE TITLE. HOW LONG DREAMER AND RAVEN CAN CONTINUE IN THIS DYSFUNCTIONAL MANNER IS ANYTHING GUESS.

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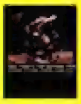

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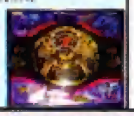

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'I've been to a couple of psychologists.'

ntinued from page 18

sucking up to Shane so you can get over with Vince," and it's just the exact opposite. What would happen is I'd get total heat with Vince because I'd have Shane out all the time, back when I used to drink. I quit drinking two years ago. I had Shane out every night of the week partying and Vince thought I was a horrendous influence on his son.

BACK ON THE COUCH

Q. DID YOU EVER SEEK OUT HELP FOR YOUR PROBLEMS?

A. I've been to a couple of psychologists. I found one phenomenal one who really helped me through my baggage. My father's passing away recently – he was very ill so it was the best thing for him – took a lot of that baggage away. I don't by any means glorify his death, but it enabled me to turn my life around.

Q. DESCRIBE RAVEN NOW COMPARED TO THE ONE WHO APPEARED JAN. 8, 1995.

A. I came out in January 1995 as dark and as bleak and as miserable as one could possibly be. A lot of people say I let the character consume me, but what they don't understand is it was already consuming me to begin with. I just found the forum to play it out. It was cathartic, it gave me release. By the same token, a lot of the negatives that accentuated it had a detrimental effect on me. It took a long while to work through all of that as well. What you see now is probably the most stable and happy I've ever been. Raven now is cruel, hateful and malicious, but not as brooding and not as sullen. Fans will see a more sarcastic edge. Raven is 75 percent of the brooding bastard and 25 percent of the glib, wise ass prick that Scotty the Body was.

FROM ECW TO WCW AND BACK AGAIN

Q. HOW DID YOU COME TO THE DECISION TO LEAVE ECW THE FIRST TIME?

A. I didn't want to leave and to be honest, I begged Paul. I said, "Please, I don't want to leave." Eric Bischoff [then vice president of WCW] offered me a lot of money to go to WCW. Of course ECW's pay scale has jumped since then, but at the time it was a very hefty contract. I begged Paul to give me half of what Bischoff offered, but he couldn't. He just didn't have the money. I had to leave and it broke my heart. All the boys said, "You got to go." Now that ECW is on national TV with the TNN deal, I'm like: "Well, I can't let them go on national TV without me. I got to be there for it."

Q. BUT DIDN'T BISCHOFF ASK YOU TO LEAVE WCW ON AUG. 23?

A. I didn't really have a choice. Bischoff called a meeting and said, "Raven, start working through our attorney outside. You're not happy with the company so you can leave right now." I said, "bye" and walked out the door. Later Eric said, "I think you should think this over, I think you should stay. What are you going to do, go work for Paul E.?" I said, "No, I'm going to Vince." He said, "You are not going to Vince." I said, "You said I got a release. I would think that implies I could go wherever I want." Eric said, "I'll let you go to ECW but you can't go to Vince.

Q. HOW DO YOU GET ALONG WITH BISCHOFF NOW?

A. I like Eric a lot, I think he's a great guy. I know there's a lot of horror stories of how badly he treats all the wrestlers, but he's always treated me with a lot of respect. He always made time for me. ecw

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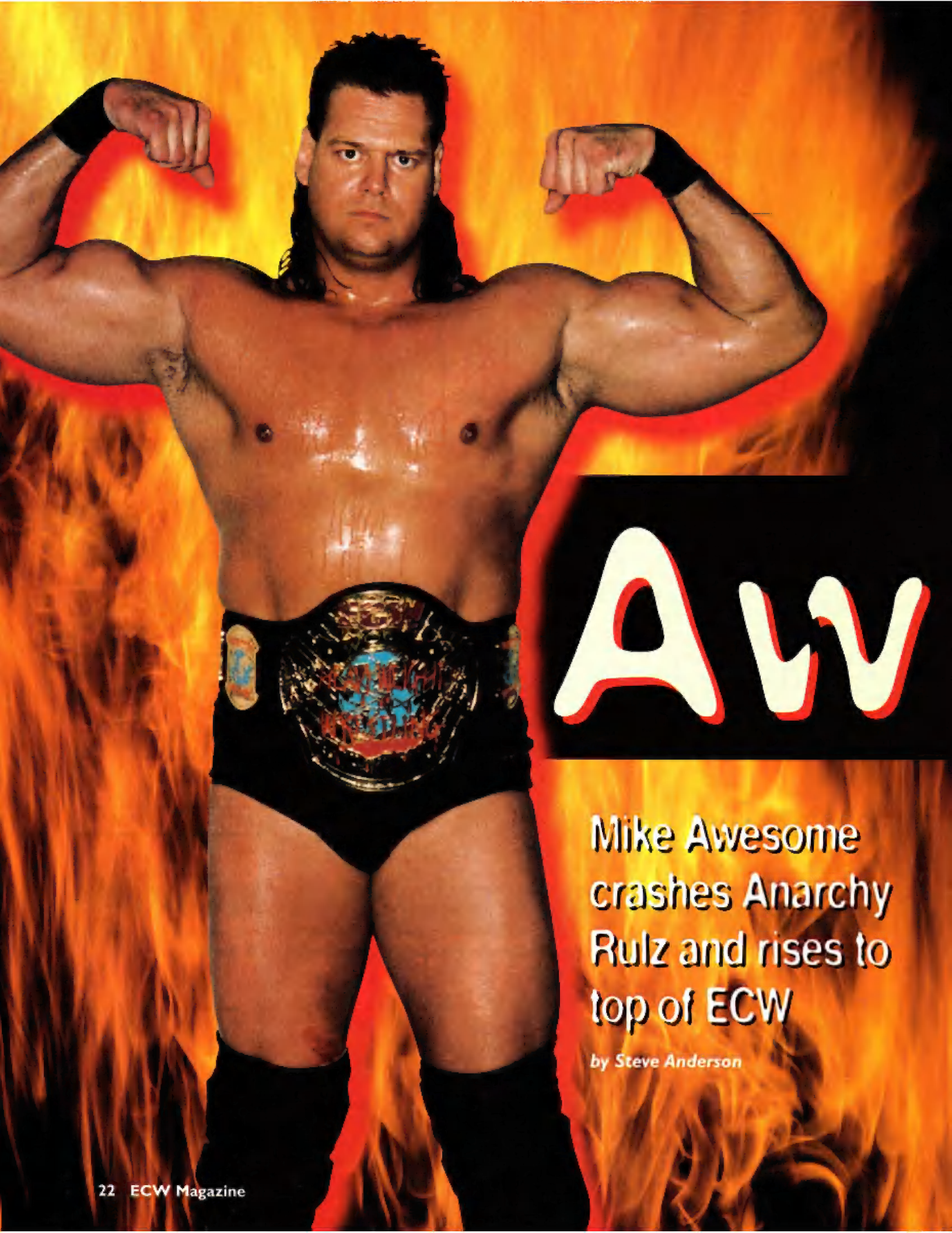

Aw

Mike Awesome crashes Anarchy Rulz and rises to top of ECW

by Steve Anderson

Mesome Impact

MIKE AWESOME FACED SEVERAL obstacles on Sept. 19, 1999.

Anarchy Rulz was ready to air and the card had been set. The main event was scheduled to be Taz versus Masato Tanaka for the Extreme Championship Wrestling world heavyweight title. The remainder of the pay-per-view guaranteed top quality matches in both title and non-title bouts. However, Awesome's name did not appear anywhere on the lineup. ECW promised surprises. After all, there was no law and order that night in Chicago.

Awesome and his manager Judge Jeff Jones were well aware that Anarchy Rulz meant anything could happen – and they took advantage. When the event was over, Awesome found himself at the top of ECW.

From FMW to Anarchy Rulz

Most ECW fans are well aware of Awesome and his history with Tanaka. The Frontier Martial-Arts Wrestling (FMW) star visited ECW a year earlier and lost a match to Tanaka at the Heat Wave pay-per-view on Aug. 2, 1998. ECW on TNN reintroduced Awesome to viewers by replaying that match on Sept. 10, 1999. That replay is what set certain events related to Anarchy Rulz in motion.

"I was down in Florida in September, hanging out with some good friends," Jones said. "I called Mike up and said, 'You've been on TV a lot recently.' He said, 'Excuse me.' I told him how ECW was using the footage of him wrestling Tanaka to build up Tanaka for a title shot."

Awesome was not happy with this news.

"Jeff Jones brought it to my attention that Masato Tanaka had a title match against Taz at the pay-per-view," Awesome said. "A little over a year ago, I fought Tanaka in a pay-per-view match in which he beat me. Jeff brought it to my attention that they were showing clips of where he power bombed me over the top rope onto a table."

Awesome decided to do something about this.

Standing out in the crowd

At an imposing 6-feet-6 and 292 pounds, Awesome would definitely stand out in a crowd. He decided to do just that with the Anarchy Rulz crowd in Chicago. The

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Awesome Impact

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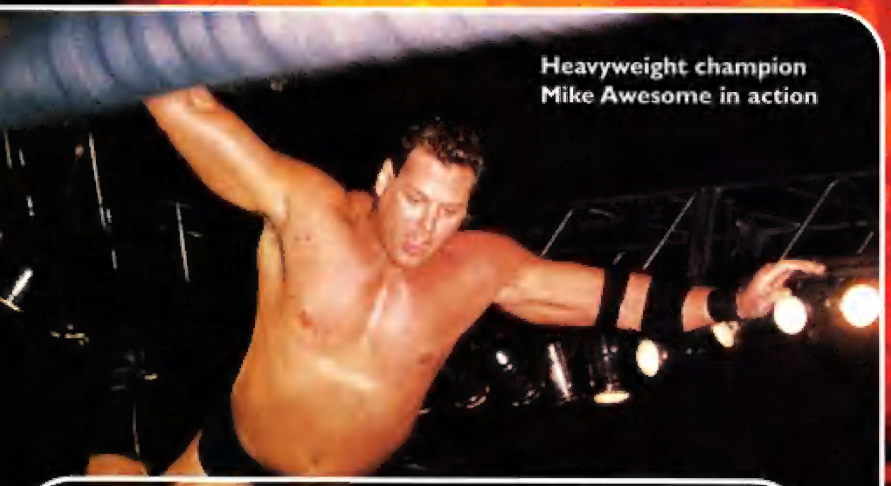
ECW fans packed into the Odeum Theatre certainly noticed Awesome. He walked through the masses, accompanied by Jones, and attempted to interject himself in the ECW title match between Taz and Tanaka.

"My intention was just to fight Tanaka," Awesome said. "But then Taz called me into the ring and Paul E. [Heyman, owner of ECW] said, 'Let's make it a three-way dance.' Things worked out better than I thought they would."

Jones said Heyman's decision to change the title bout into a three-way dance spelled doom for Taz.

"Paul E. is the kind of person who wants to satisfy the wrestling fans," Jones said. "And when he saw that Mike Awesome wanted in the match and saw Taz challenging him, he gave the people what they wanted. That was probably the worst mistake he ever made for Taz, because now Taz is a former world heavyweight champion."



Heavyweight champion Mike Awesome in action

The title match

As he has done throughout his successful international career, Awesome combined devastating power moves with an impressive aerial offense during the three-way dance title match at Anarchy Rulz. When he flew from the top rope and landed on Taz with his Frog Splash, he accomplished what many ECW wrestlers have unsuccessfully attempted since

TOP: Mike Awesome launches himself into the air for his Awesome Bomb finishing move.
ABOVE: Taz passes the ECW world heavyweight title, and the torch, to Awesome at Anarchy Rulz.
RIGHT: Awesome carries Masato Tanaka over his shoulders during the three-way dance for the heavyweight title at Anarchy Rulz.

Jan. 10, 1999: strip Taz of his world title.

One down, one to go

With Taz eliminated, Awesome finally received what he came for: the chance to avenge his loss to Tanaka and emerge from the ECW television archives to the very top of the promotion. He made the most of that chance by defeating Tanaka to become the ECW world heavyweight champion.

If his sudden arrival in Chicago was startling, his victory over both Taz and Tanaka for the world title sent shockwaves throughout the arena, including the backstage area. The power structure in ECW shifted dramatically. Once merely a contender in ECW, Awesome pummeled every obstacle in his way and captured the belt.

Awesome background

When the new ECW world champion's background is taken into account, his victory should not be considered startling nor shocking.

A native of Tampa, Fla., Awesome was trained by Steve Kiern in 1988. Out of all the trainees, only Awesome and two other men emerged from the camp. He debuted on Jan. 26, 1989, teaming with Bart Sawyer to face the Starr Ryders. He traveled between Florida independents and the United States Wrestling Association in Memphis before heading off to Japan in October 1990.

Known as The Gladiator,

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'Mike Awesome is probably going to be the most dominant world champion we're ever seen.' – Judge Jeff Jones

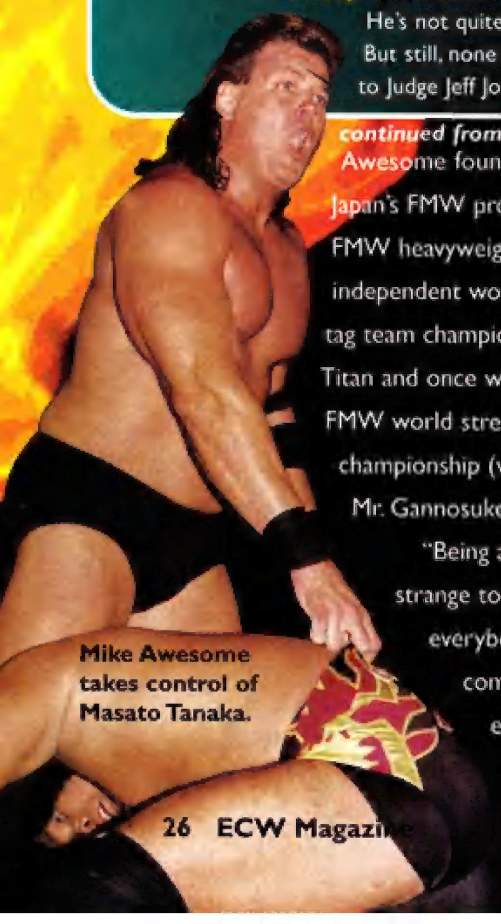
Jeff Jones Rates The Other TV Judges

Judge Jeff Jones finds the number of "judge" personalities on TV amusing.

"I think it's funny. Ever since January, all these new 'judge shows' are popping up," Jones said. "I think they got jealous because I got my own pay-per-view. How can you have people be 'Guilty As Charged' without a judge? Now, all of a sudden, there are all these judge TV shows. It's got to make you wonder."

Here are Jones' views on the other arbiters on TV:

- **Judge Judy:** "I hate her. I just think she's obnoxious. She thinks that because she's wearing the black robe, she can talk to anyone the way she wants. One day, I think it would be great if someone went up and punched her in the face. I think she's rude. I think she's ignorant. If I ever meet her, I'm going to punch her in the face. Actually, I'll have Mike Awesome do it because I don't do that kind of thing."
- **Judge Jerry:** "Gee, I wonder how he got a job? He's married to Judge Judy, so he's over by association. He's kind of like the Rockers. Marty Jannetty was over because Shawn Michaels was. I think that's the only reason he has a TV show."
- **Judge Mills Lane:** "I got a little bit of heat with Judge Mills Lane, because all of a sudden, he wants to get involved in the wrestling industry. Make up your mind. You're a boxing referee. You're a judge. What are you?"
- **Judge Wapner:** "He was good in his day, but come on, hang it up, man. It's not People's Court anymore. You're doing animal cases. So please, it's time for you and Rusty the Bailiff to retire and sip down your Geritol."
- **Judge Joe Brown:** "I'm not too impressed by him. He's not quite as obnoxious as Judge Judy. But still, none of these people can compare to Judge Jeff Jones."



Mike Awesome takes control of Masato Tanaka.

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Awesome found his greatest success in Japan's FMW promotion. He captured two FMW heavyweight championships, an independent world title, two FMW world tag team championships (once with Big Titan and once with Mr. Pogo), and the FMW world street-fight six-man tag team championship (with Hisakatsu Ooya and Mr. Gannosuke).

"Being a champion is nothing strange to me. I'm going to fight everybody and anybody who comes my way, and kick everybody's ass," Awesome said. "Because I know I can. ECW is supposed to be hardcore? Well, I wrestled 10 years for FMW and they are definitely hardcore."

"Mike Awesome is probably going to be the most dominant world champion we've ever seen," Jones said. "He's just steamrolling through challengers one by one. I don't think there is anyone in the near future who is going to be able to stop Mike Awesome." ECW

Mike Awesome poses with Taz backstage at Anarchy Rulz.

Awesome Title History

Mike Awesome was a main event star in Japan before capturing the Extreme Championship Wrestling world heavyweight title at Anarchy Rulz on Sept. 19, 1999. The following is Awesome's title history for Frontier Martial-Arts Wrestling (FMW) in Japan, where he was known as The Gladiator.

FMW world heavyweight title

1st reign:

- Defeated Hayabusa for title on Sept. 26, 1995.
- Vacated title on Jan. 5, 1996 because of injury.

2nd reign:

- Defeated Fukuoka for title on May 27, 1996.
- Lost title to Masato Tanaka on Sept. 28, 1997.

FMW six-man tag title

- Won title with partners Hisakatsu Ooya and Mr. Gannosuke on Aug. 5, 1997, when team defeats Hiromichi Fuyuki, Gedo and Jado.
- Lost title to Hayabusa, Masato Tanaka and Kouji Nakagawa on Aug. 31, 1997.

FMW world tag team title

1st reign:

- Won title with Big Titan on Jan. 18, 1994, by defeating Atsushi Onita and Katsutoshi Niiyama.
- Lost title to Mr. Pogo and Hisakatsu Ooya on April 21, 1994.

2nd reign:

- Won title with Mr. Pogo on Oct. 28, 1994, by defeating Atsushi Onita and Mr. Gannosuke.
- Lost title to Atsushi Onita, Mr. Gannosuke on Feb. 24, 1995.

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Danny Doring
Roadkill

THE ODD COUPLE

Danny Doring and Amish Roadkill form unlikely tag team

by Dave Scherer

IF POLITICS MAKES FOR STRANGE bedfellows, then wrestling makes for even stranger bedfellows.

In politics, voters often see candidates who have nothing in common team up to accomplish a common goal. When fans look in the ring of Extreme Championship Wrestling, they see politics has nothing on professional wrestling. There is not a stranger pairing in wrestling or politics than Danny Doring and Amish Roadkill.

Doring, a jock with a tendency to womanize, and Roadkill, an Amish big man with a preoccupation with chickens, plan to prove a pairing of seemingly opposite wrestlers can make a most effective team. Even though they come from opposite backgrounds, similarities between the two have allowed them to form one of the best young tag teams around.

Since joining forces in early 1998, Doring, 25, and Roadkill, 23, have solidified

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ECW's men on a mission

THE ODD COUPLE

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themselves as title contenders with their hard work in the wrestling ring. Doring is an athletic flyer with a solid base of wrestling skills while Roadkill shows deceptive ring awareness and amazing agility for a man his size.

Different backgrounds, common bond

Before wrestling, Doring played quarterback in college and for a semi-pro team. At the same time, Roadkill was consumed by his passion for video games, a habit he had to hide from the elders in the Pennsylvania Amish community he grew up in. However, both shared the common desire of being professional wrestlers.

The two first met during their training at ECW's House of Hardcore wrestling school. Roadkill entered the school in March 1996 and Doring entered in May. Under the tutelage of Taz and Perry Saturn, the two were taught the basics in the toughest possible way.

"When they were training, Perry and I knew Danny would probably make it through the camp because he was an athlete in good shape," Taz said. "He trained hard and ate properly and was a hell of a football player. But Roadkill was obviously not in the shape Danny was in, and he really didn't have an athletic background."

Tag team work: Roadkill holds up Rhino while Doring flies in with a clothesline.

Miss Congeniality adds beauty to beasts . . . Doring and Roadkill.

Taz and Saturn had to work hard to overcome Roadkill's laziness.

"We really had to stay on him and would just beat the hell out of him" Taz said. "We never thought he'd make it, but he did and now he's doing tremendously."

During training, Taz realized Doring and Roadkill would make a good team.

"They both had a lot of discipline and wanted to make themselves better," Taz said. "They went through the ECW camp at the highest, toughest peak ever. They were a joy to train because they had heart, they were disciplined and they weren't schmucks."

After training, the two continued to pay their dues under the watchful eye of their trainer

Top Five Diversions of Danny Doring and Amish Roadkill

Here's what Danny Doring and Amish Roadkill list as their top five activities outside the ring:

Danny Doring

1. Goes to a night club to dance with the ladies.
2. Comes up with names for maneuvers that are sexually explicit so Joey Styles blushes when he says them.
3. Hits the tanning salon.
4. Spends time trying to set up dates for Saturday night.
5. Works hard to become the best wrestler that he can.

Amish Roadkill

1. Rounds up the chickens.
2. Covers his ears with wide-brimmed hat when Doring talks about his conquests.
3. Hits Wal-Mart for the newest video game releases.
4. Goes nuts that Danny spends so much time womanizing.
5. Works hard to become the best wrestler that he can.

by doing whatever was asked of them. They helped set up the ring before events and were part of the "Team Taz" group that used to accompany Taz to the ring.

In 1997, Roadkill was honored in his rookie year. He was invited to wrestle on Terry Funk's Wrestlefest retirement show on Sept. 11, in Amarillo, Texas, but lost to Wing Kanemura. Roadkill was very appreciative of being on the card with "The Living Legend," as it was proof his hard work was paying off.

Doring sits back and takes it easy.

Pay-per-view experience

Early in 1998, Doring and Roadkill became a tag team, with Roadkill adding the "Angry Amish Chicken Plucker" phrase to his name. They spent most of 1998 learning to work together. By the end of the year, they received their big break, wrestling on the Nov. 1, 1998, November to Remember pay-per-view in New Orleans, La. While they lost to The Blue Meanie and Super Nova, the pay-per-view exposure was nothing but positive.

Doring and Roadkill's first pay-per-view win came against Wild Bill Wiles and C. W. Anderson at Anarchy Rulz in Chicago on Sept. 19, 1999.

After that victory, Doring said his team is ready to shine. But first, he wants to see more females at ECW shows.

"I want to find a way to bring gorgeous females to ECW," Doring said. "Instead of the 18-year-old girls, we want 20-something and early 30-year-old nice little things coming to the shows."

Although Doring and Roadkill have become a cohesive unit in the ring, they are still polar opposites outside of it.

"Every now and then I will get Roadkill out," Doring said. "But he'll have one or two beers and pass the keys over. I mean, the whip for the horse and buggy."

Team is future of ECW

Putting Doring's preoccupation with woman aside, Doring and Roadkill are eager to rise to the top of ECW.

"We have been told that we are the future of the company by the people who have been here, like Shane [Douglas], [Tommy] Dreamer, Tracy Smothers and Taz," Doring said. "If we get more chances on pay-per-views, we are going to start proving we can put asses in the seats. I am not afraid. I want to be given the ball."

The team has the tools to be top contenders for the ECW world tag team title – confidence in their abilities and strong ring skills. ECW

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Fresno, CA	KGMC 43	Friday	11 p.m. Pacific
Washington, DC	Media Gen. 51	Tuesday	6 p.m. Eastern
Jacksonville, FL	WJWB 17	Sunday	1 a.m. Eastern
Miami Beach, FL	WAMI	Saturday	11 p.m. Eastern (replay Sunday 2 p.m.)
Orlando, FL	WRBW 65	Friday	1 a.m. Eastern
Albany, GA	WRKL 35	Saturday	9 p.m. Eastern
Atlanta, GA	WNGM 34	Saturday	7 p.m. Eastern
Columbus, GA	WCGT 16	Saturday	7 p.m. Eastern (replay Wednesday 10 p.m.)
Twin Falls, ID	KKHM 55	Saturday	11 a.m. Mountain
Carbondale, IL	SPC	Friday	10 p.m. Central (replay Tuesday 7 p.m.)
Chicago, IL	WCIU 26	Thursday	1 a.m. Central
Indianapolis, IN	WAV 53	Tuesday	10 p.m. Eastern (replay Sunday 5 p.m.)
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Dallas, TX	KHSX 49	Saturday	7 p.m. Central (replay Sunday 10 p.m.)
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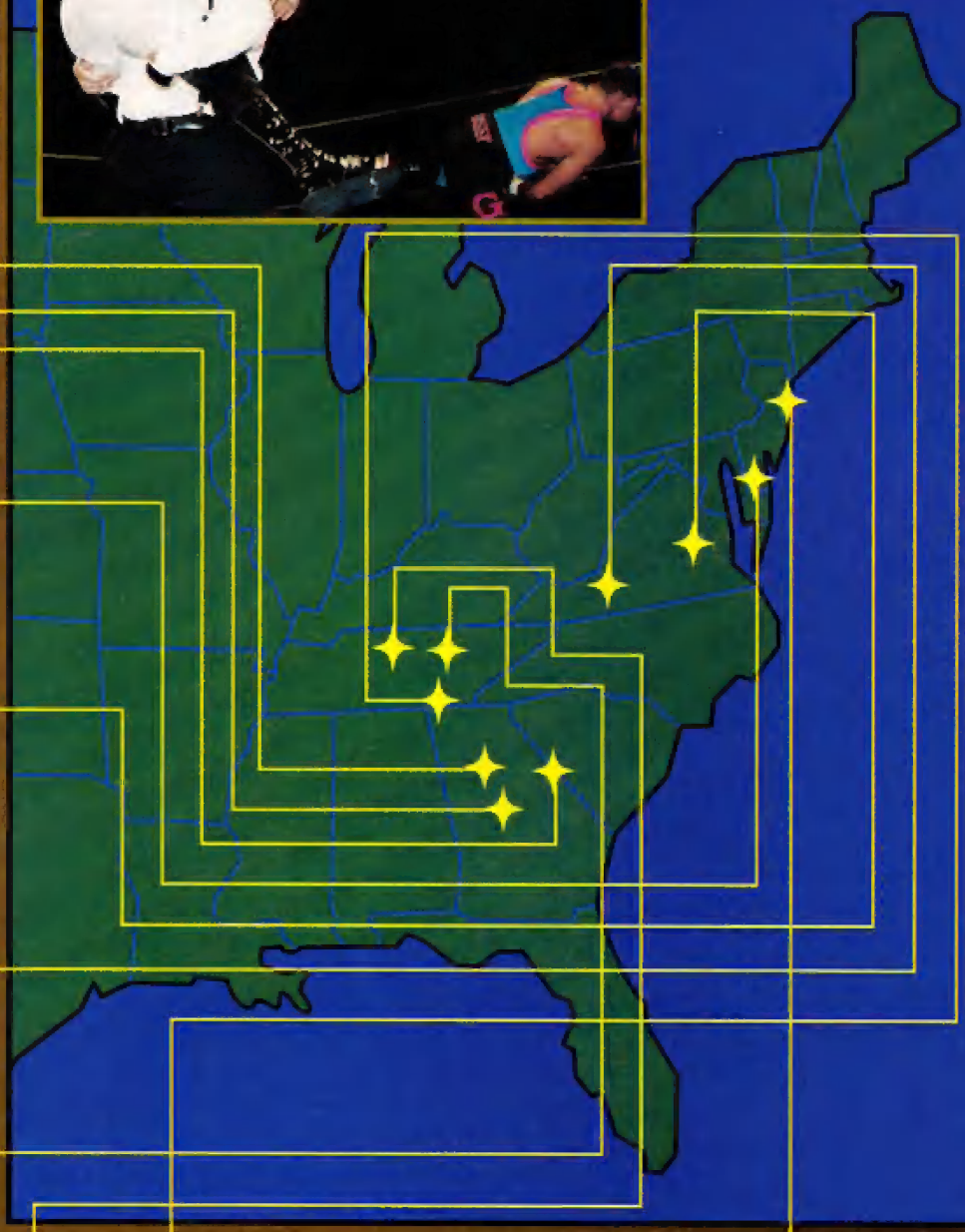

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Chattanooga, Tenn.

Thursday, Dec. 23
Westchester Co. Center
Westchester, N.Y.

Sunday, Jan. 9
Guilty As Charged pay-per-view
Location TBA

Gr

Rotten Fast Facts

Height: 6-foot-2

Weight: 302 pounds

Birthday: April 21, 1971

Hometown: Baltimore, Md.

Professional debut: 1988

Favorite musician: Marilyn Maanson

Favorite song: "Unholy" by KISS

Real name: Axl F---ing Rotten

Most memorable ring moments:

"My feud with Ian in 1995 set the standard for what people considered hardcore and extreme at the time, and to this day it has not been duplicated. One of my favorite singles matches was against Chris Candido, before Wrestlepalooza – the atmosphere and the way that match felt was electric. Then there was me and Balls against Candido and Lance Storm at Wrestlepalooza. I thought we had a damn good match."

Most troubling ring moments:

"When I was in a battle royal in Nashville for the United States Wrestling Association, I thought I was going over the top rope, but I went through the middle, and I piledrived myself on the concrete floor. I thought I was dead. Another time, in World Championship Wrestling, the first night I wrestled Vader, he punched me in the chest. I'd never been hit so hard in my life. I fell through the ropes to the floor. I was 19 years old at the time, I said to myself, 'I better get my ass back in that ring.' I look at that as a learning experience."

inding His Axe

Axl Rotten wants to be respected as one of ECW's core stars

by Matt Hunter

PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING IS about respect.

Different wrestlers measure respect in different ways. For Sabu, respect is measured by the volume of the fans' chants – "ECW! ECW! ECW!" – after he flies through the air in an attempt to injure his opponent. For Balls Mahoney, respect is measured by the impact his chair shots have on a hapless opponent.

For Axl Rotten, though, respect hasn't quite come his way – yet.

"I've never been one of the boys who's held back his mouth," Rotten said. "I'll talk about the boss, I'll talk about the company – sometimes it's gotten me in trouble."

Rotten, ironically, then left nothing unsaid about his past role in Extreme Championship Wrestling.

"Now that ECW has the national TNN deal, a lot of us who worked hard to get there aren't getting the credit we deserve," he said. "Some of the new guys are getting the bigger push. I'm not saying they don't deserve it, but I am saying don't forget about me.

"When you look back at the history of ECW, I'm the one who always gets overlooked," Rotten continued. "People talk about Tommy

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Johnny Smith attacks Axl Rotten from behind with Lance Storm prone in the foreground.

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Dreamer being there since day one but everyone forgets that Axl was there since day one. When people talk about the innovations ECW has brought to the sport, everyone else is the pioneer or the innovator."

Rotten said he simply wants the respect he deserves.

"I'm not downing anybody. Everybody's worked their asses off to help ECW get to where it is today," he said. "I'm the last guy who wants anything handed to me. This has nothing to do with sour grapes. I just want the recognition."

Beyond the barbed-wire bat

Until now, Rotten has had no problem getting recognition, even if it's not quite the type he's looking for. The violence in his matches is legendary, and his baseball bat wrapped in barbed wire has become something of a trademark. Still, he is looking for more.

"I don't want to be known as the most hardcore guy in ECW, or the guy who bleeds the most," Rotten said. "I want to be known as the best wrestler. I love entertaining people. When the people put down their hard-earned dollars to see Axl Rotten, I want them to be completely entertained."

Rotten said he does not want to be known only as the wrestler with the brutal baseball bat.

"It happens to a lot of people," he said. "You get known for one thing, and you get stuck with it. But it's not an impossible thing to get out of.

"My reason for getting into the business in the first place was Dusty Rhodes," Rotten continued. "He could bleed all over the place one night, and still have a 40-minute match with Ric Flair the next night."

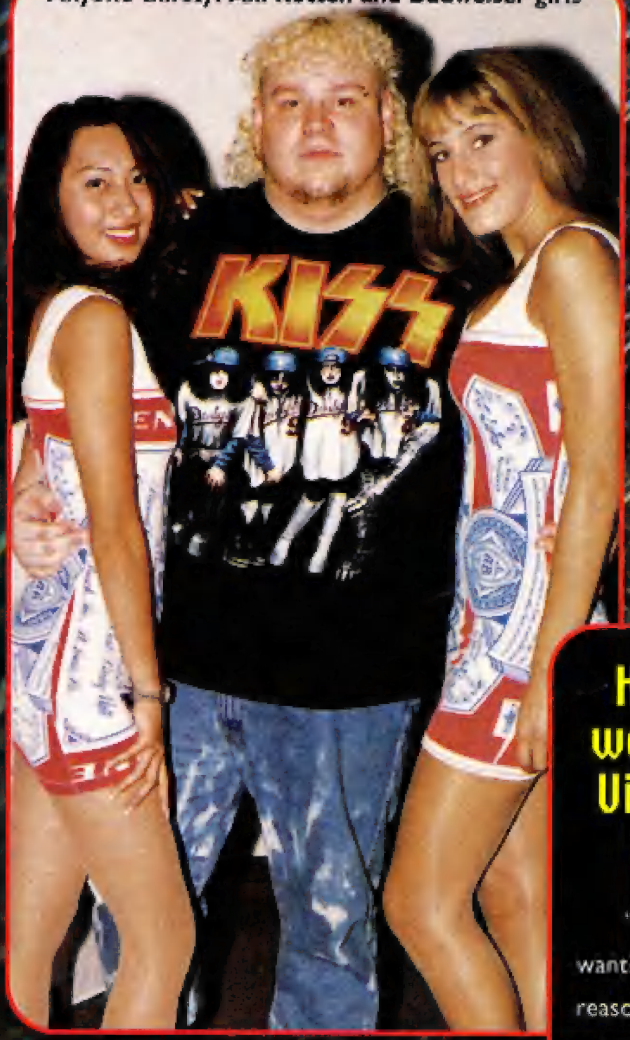
So why, then, is Rotten finding himself being slammed through fiery tables and doused with pints of blood rather than competing in more scientific matches?

"Maybe the reason I get put in the extreme position is that all the people around here who claim to be so hardcore and extreme are afraid to do it," he said. "The days of ECW being pure extreme are gone. Mick Foley's gone. Abdullah The Butcher is gone. The only ones left are me, Balls [Mahoney], New Jack and Spike [Dudley].

Axl Rotten and tag team partner Balls Mahoney

We're the ones who have to go out there and get extreme, because that's an ECW reputation. But the truth of it is, I would just as soon have a good wrestling match with Chris Candido."

Anyone thirsty? Axl Rotten and Budweiser girls



Tag team days

These days, Rotten's matches tend to be ultra-violent tag team bouts with partner Balls Mahoney.

"We wrestled The Dudley Boyz for what seemed like two years," Rotten said. "We wrestled Sabu and Rob Van Dam, and Candido and Lance Storm. Everyone who was put in the top tag spot, we were their opponents. And because we're so damn tough, they always came out looking good.

"Raven and Dreamer are a joke as tag team champions," he continued. "Me and Balls don't get the opportunity to run with the ball."

Rotten said Mahoney is one of the few who truly respects him.

"Me and Balls, because we wrestled each other, respect each other as athletes," Rotten said. "I know how hard he can swing a chair. Hell, I'm one of the craziest f---ing people I know. Then I look at Balls and I say, 'Look at this guy!' "

Axl back on track

However, a lot of people look at Rotten and say the same thing. More troubling than what they say, though, is what they whisper: "Rotten can't cut it. He got booted from ECW by owner Paul E. Heyman. He's crazy in the ring, but he's not reliable."

Rotten said those rumors helped him get back on track.

"For a time I was getting involved in a few things outside the ring I shouldn't have been involved in," he said. "It took Paul E. to make me realize what I was doing and how I was wasting my life. There was a quote from Paul that got back to me, he said: 'Axl Rotten is one of the top performers in my locker room who doesn't perform up to his abilities.' I sat back and thought about that, and he was right.

"That was a wakeup call," Rotten continued. I thank Paul for making me realize I'm too smart and too talented to waste my time on that."

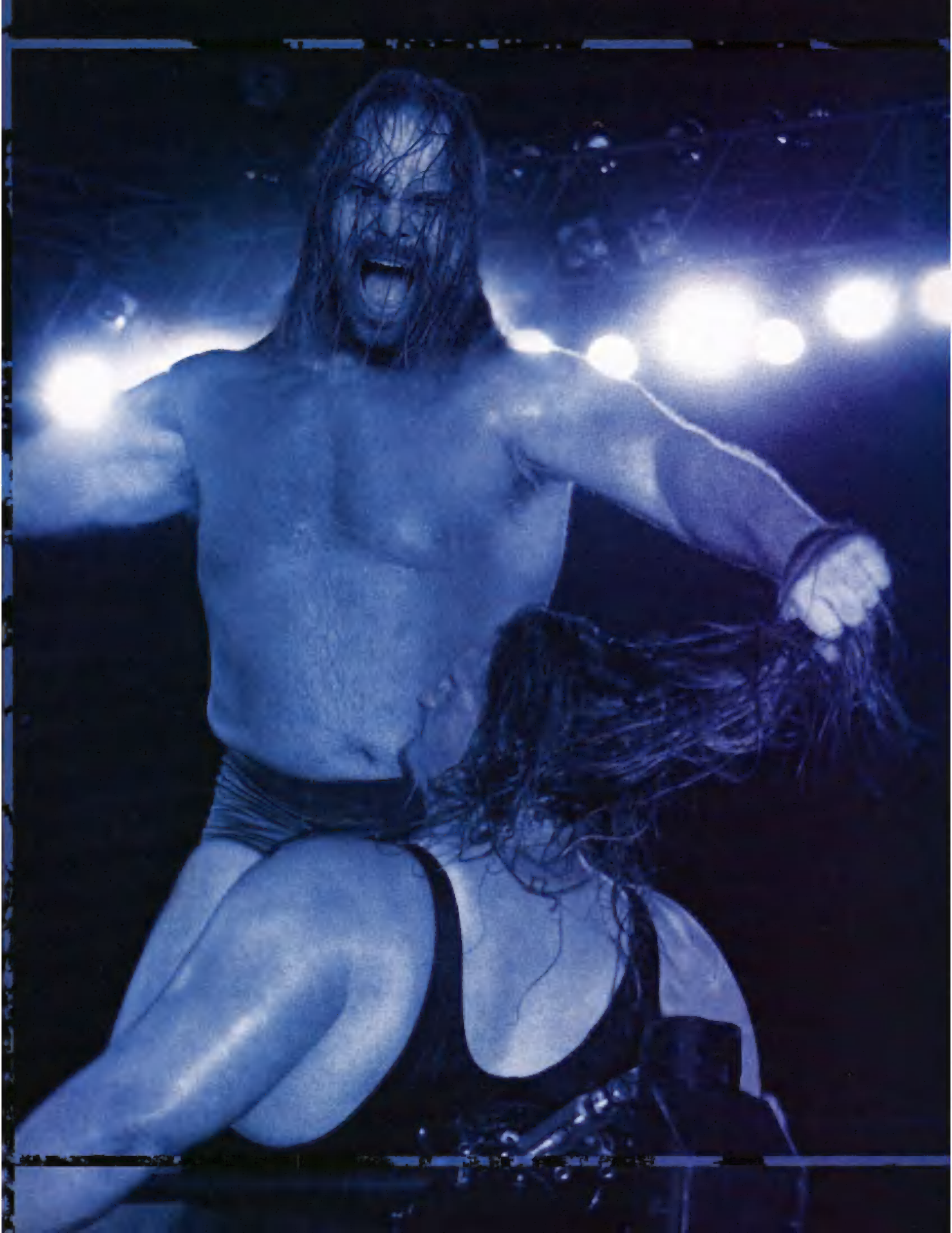
Rotten looks forward to the task of rebuilding his ECW career.

"I've been as far down physically and emotionally as I could possibly be, and I'm working my way back," he said.

By working his way back, Rotten will earn the respect he deserves from his peers and fans. ecw

Hey Axl, what would you say if Vince McMahon called you?

"I'd say, 'What do you want?' He'd have to give me a reason to leave. Money alone is not a reason to leave. I've seen ECW grow from 200 people in a building to thousands at a pay-per-view. I helped bring this company to where it is now. Vince would have to offer me something more than just money. I don't think you can put a number on what ECW means to me. I don't begrudge anyone anything. Taz? Dudleys? They have to do what's right for them. Right now, for me, it would take a lot more than the number figure. I think there's a lot more I can to do here in ECW ... if I'm given the opportunity."



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Order Before Anarchy

ECW faithful flock to Fan Fest

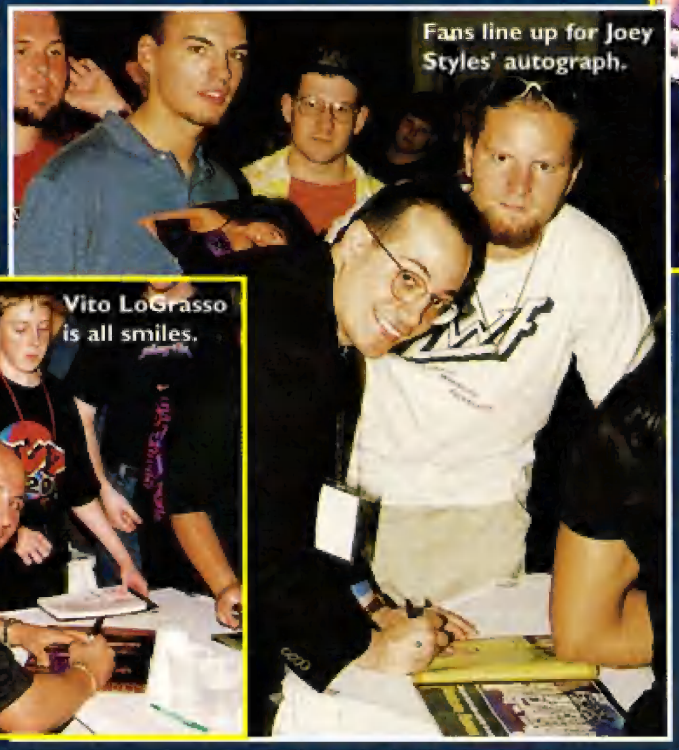
Roadkill shows off a magazine he signed.

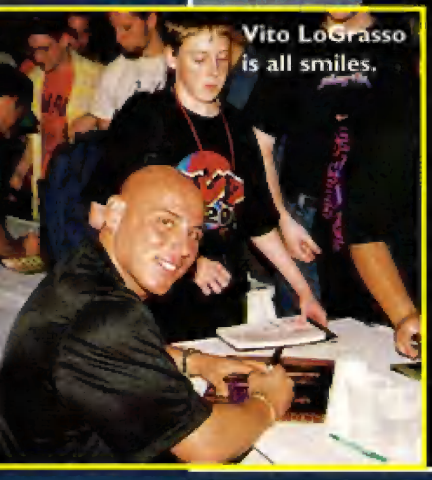
ON THE DAY BEFORE ANARCHY RULZ, there was a semblance of order for Extreme Championship Wrestling fans wanting to meet their favorite performers. To show appreciation for its fans, ECW held a fan convention at the Odeum in suburban Chicago on Sept. 18.

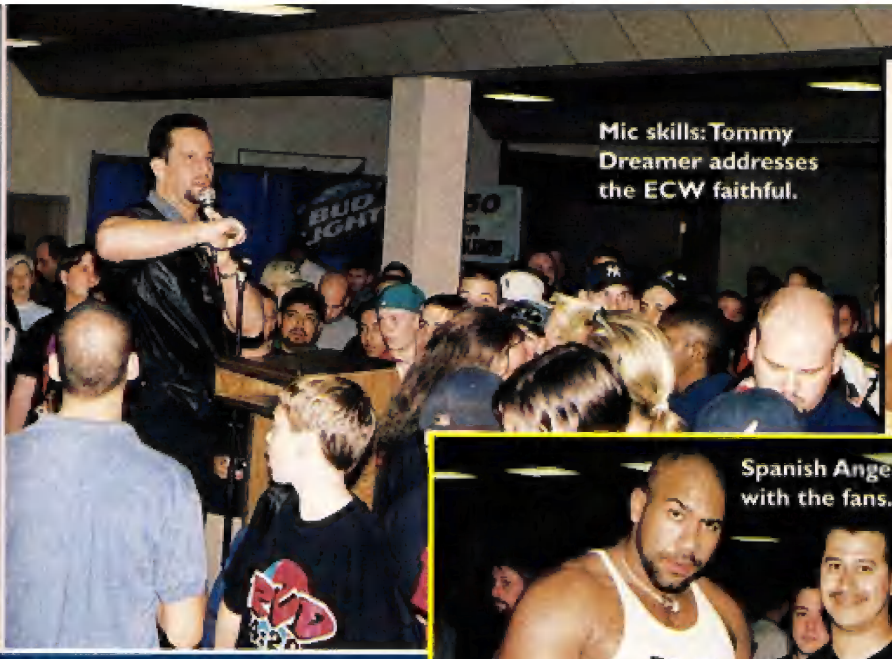
About 2,000 fans lined up for autographs and posed for photos with many ECW stars, including Justin Credible, Lance Storm, Spike Dudley, Nova, Little Guido, Francine and Dawn Marie. The three-hour convention also featured speeches by several personalities, including New Jack, Axl Rotten, Balls Mahoney, Tommy Dreamer and Joey Styles.

Highlights included New Jack declaring that he and Rotten were back to "kick some ass" and Mahoney taunting Styles about his favorite football team, the New York Jets, which had just lost its starting quarterback, Vinny Testaverde, to injury.

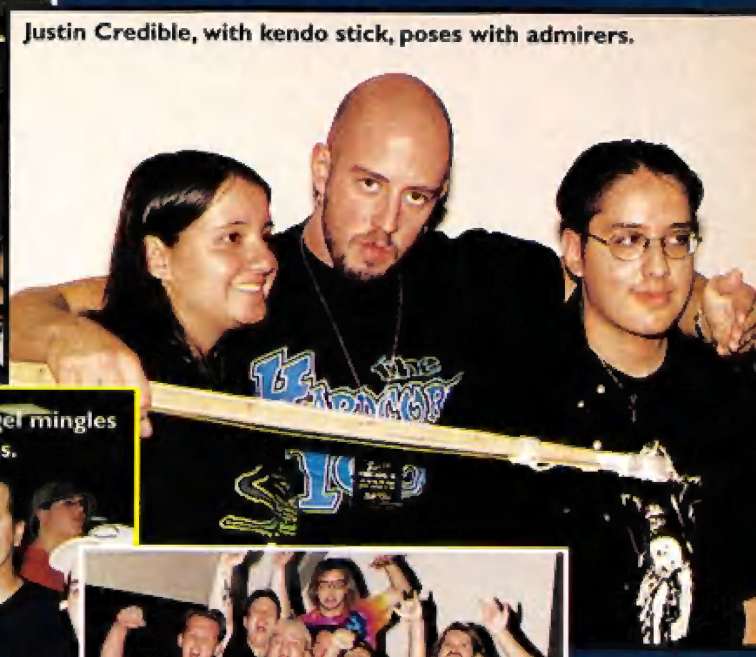
'Smart' fans display their literary tastes by holding up copies of ECW Magazine.


Fans line up for Joey Styles' autograph.


Vito LoGrasso is all smiles.



Mic skills: Tommy Dreamer addresses the ECW faithful.



Justin Credible, with kendo stick, poses with admirers.

Spanish Angel mingles with the fans.

LEFT: Find the wrestlers in a crowd of fans.

The enthusiastic crowd at the convention foreshadowed what would turn out to be record attendance for an ECW live event the next day, when more than 6,000 people packed the Odeum for the pay-per-view. ecw

Extreme choices: A wall of ECW shirts provides a style for everyone.

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SEPT. 19, 1999 ODEUM THEATRE CHICAGO, IL

by Dave Scherer

HYRULZ

ANARCH

Extreme Championship Wrestling ushered in a new era at Anarchy Rulz on Sept. 19 at the Odeum Theatre in suburban Chicago, Ill.

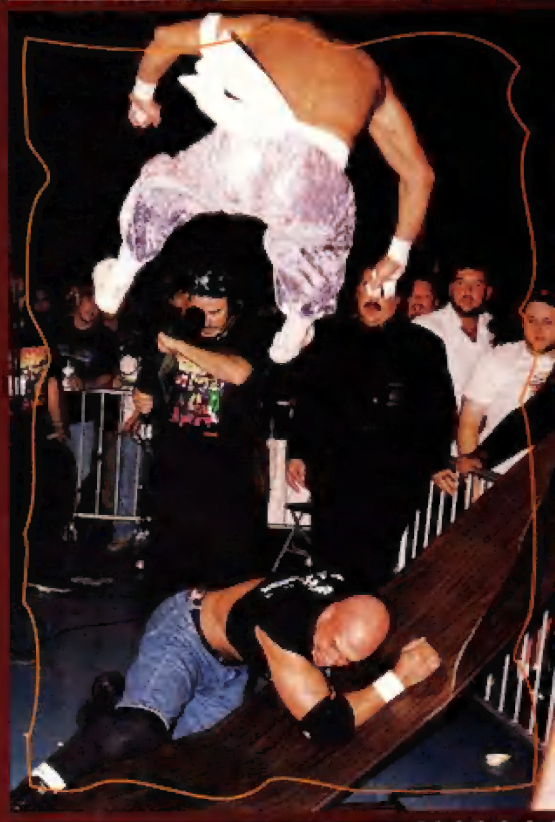
Mike Awesome was crowned the new ECW world heavyweight champion in his federation return. He crashed the scheduled title match between Taz and Masato Tanaka and turned it into a three-way dance. Awesome's victory ended Taz's eight-month title reign.

Financially, it was a record evening for ECW. The company set an all-time record for fan attendance at an event (6,700) and gate revenue (drawing about $210,000). When the quality of the show is added into the equation – quite possibly the best pay-per-view any federation held in 1999 – it's not difficult to understand why everyone left the Odeum smiling. The crowd made the great show even better with its vocal enthusiasm.

The announcing duo of Joey Styles and Cyrus The Virus did an outstanding job calling the action for the fans at home. There were even a few celebrities in attendance, as both Billy Corgan of Smashing Pumpkins and Joe C. from Kid Rock were seen backstage.

Fans at the Odeum were warmed up with a dark match featuring Danny Doring and Amish Roadkill against Wild Bill Wiles and C. W. Anderson. The match was all Doring and Roadkill, as the young tandem punished their opponents before Roadkill pinned Wiles with a big splash from the top turnbuckle.

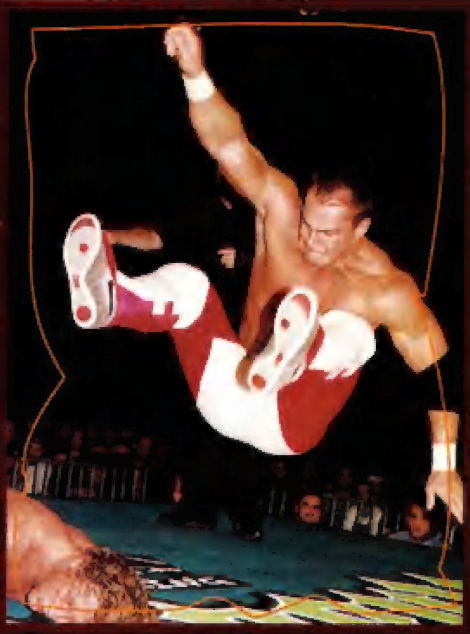
The show began for viewers at home with a video showing Tanaka arriving at the Odeum by car. As Steven Prazak asked him questions, which Tanaka ignored, Judge Jeff Jones interrupted them and told Tanaka he did not deserve to waltz back into ECW from Japan and get a world title shot. Tanaka pushed Jones to the side and left the scene. Jones then told the audience he had an "awesome" surprise for Tanaka.

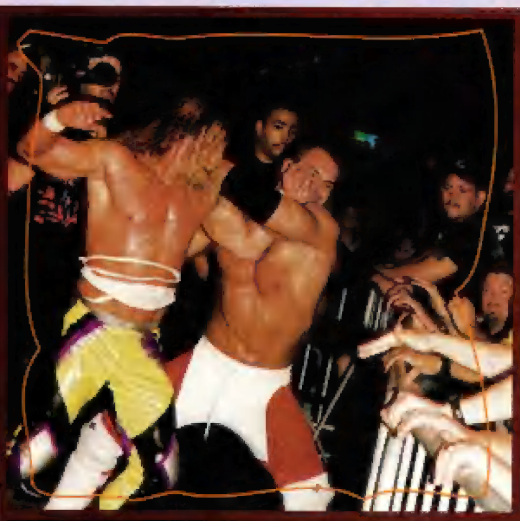


Y RULZ

lance storm (with dawn marie) vs. jerry lynn

This match was the technical masterpiece everyone expected it to be. Lance Storm, as usual, was accompanied by the beautiful Dawn Marie. Even though Lynn came to the ring with his bruised ribs taped up, the injury did not stop him from wrestling in his breathtaking style. In fact, Lynn was in control most of the match. After 10 minutes of action, both men attempted numerous pinfall attempts to no avail. Dawn Marie then involved herself in the match by handing Storm a chair, which he wedged in the corner between the ropes. Eventually, Lynn hit Storm with a DDT directly on the chair after it was taken out of the ropes. Despite that devastating move, Storm fought his way back and got the win when he rolled Lynn up for at the pin in 16:36.





ANARCH

chris chetti, nova and jazz vs. tony devito, simon diamond and tom marquez

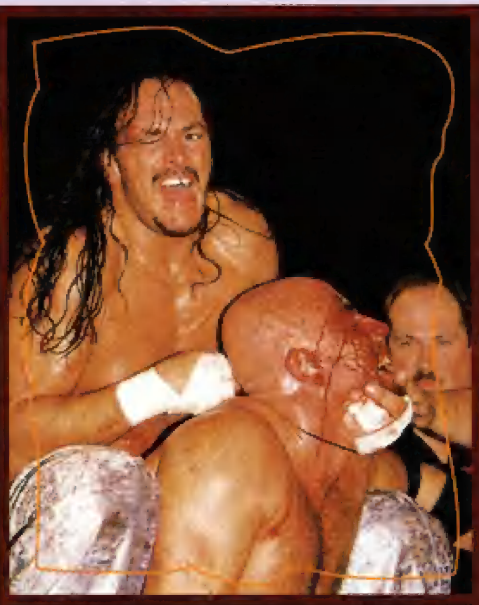
Simon Diamond came to ringside and after making fun of Tom Marquez, challenged anyone from the back to come out and wrestle him. Jazz took him up on it, but Diamond weaseled his way out of the match and convinced Marquez to wrestle her instead. After Jazz quickly got the upper hand, Diamond and Tony DeVito ran in and attacked her. Nova and Chris Chetti then came out and made the save for Jazz. It turned into a free-for-all when Amish Roadkill and Danny Doring entered the ring. Then, Rod Price, C.W. Anderson, Bill Wiles, Vito LoGrasso and Spanish Angel all charged the ring and joined the fray. This set the stage for New Jack, who appeared with a shopping cart full of weapons. New Jack attacked everyone and cleared the ring. He ended the match by using a staple gun on Price's head and finished him off with a guitar.

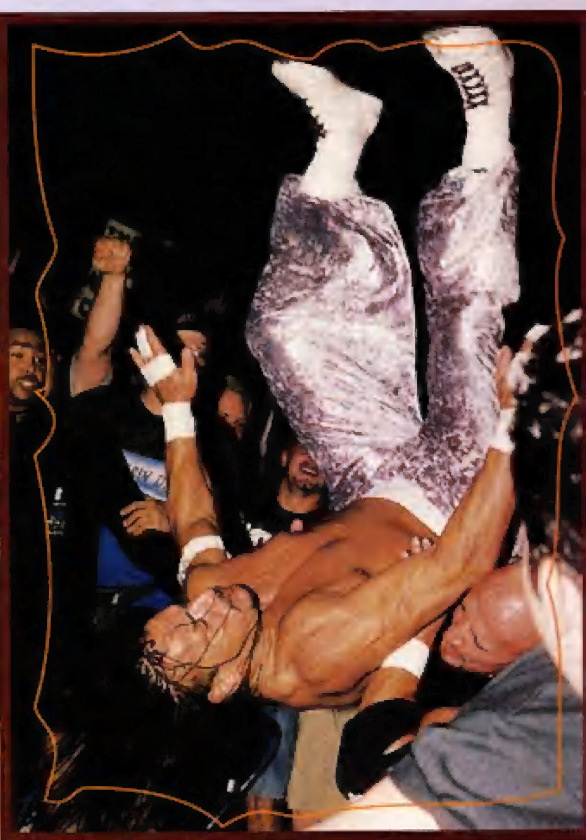
yoshihiro tajiri vs. super crazy vs. little guido (with big sal e. graziano)

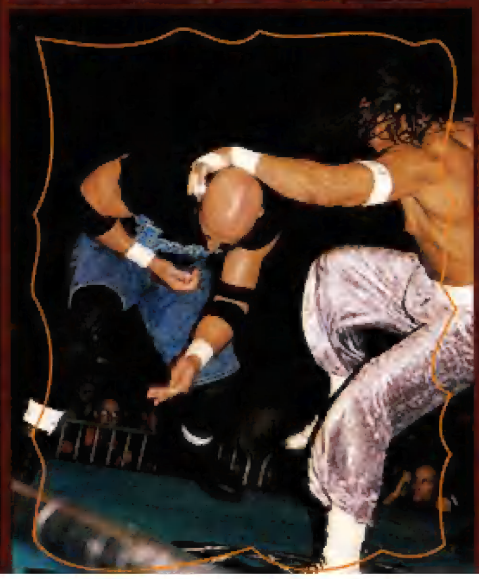
The next match was an example of a true ECW original, the three-way dance. Yoshihiro Tajiri, Super Crazy and Little Guido gave it everything they had in the ring, and out of the ring as well. In the early part of the match, the wrestlers teamed up with each other when it was to their advantage and attacked each other when it wasn't. Guido was the first to be eliminated. He was pinned in 9:17 after Tajiri pasted him with a kick in the face while he was tied in the "Tree of Woe," followed up with a moonsault by Crazy. Then, Tajiri and Crazy battled for awhile until Tajiri nailed Crazy with a nasty brainbuster and got the pin in 14:37.

justin credible (with jason) vs. sabu (with bill alfonso)

After months of coming close to getting his hands on one half of the Impact Players, Sabu finally got Justin Credible in the ring. Before the match, Credible, with his manager Jason, showed referee Jim Molineaux a restraining order he had to keep Sabu away from him. Molineaux agreed it was a valid legal document, but then told Credible that since this was ECW's Anarchy Rulz, he was going to have to face Sabu anyway. When ring announcer Bob Artese refused to announce Credible as the winner of the match, Credible layed him out with a cane shot to the head. Then, the lights went out and when they came back on Sabu was in the ring. The match turned into everything fans have come to expect from Sabu. Sabu used chairs as launching pads and busted open Credible's eye after putting him through a table. Jason tried to interfere but Sabu hit him with a legdrop. Credible used this distraction to cane Sabu. Credible finally got the pin in 14:04 after he hit "That's Incredible" on Sabu.







taz (c) vs. mike awesome (with judge jeff jones) vs. masato tanaka for ecw world heavyweight title

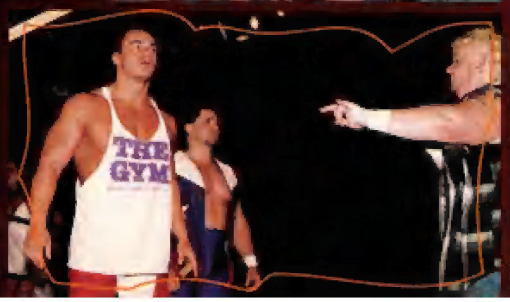
After Taz and Masato Tanaka came to the ring, Awesome appeared in the crowd with Judge Jeff Jones. Taz took the microphone and dared Awesome to jump the barricade and come into the ring to fight him. ECW Executive Producer Paul Heyman, who was at ringside, tried to hold Awesome back. Taz announced he wanted to fight both Awesome and Tanaka, and Heyman granted his wish by turning the match into a three-way dance for the heavyweight title. Tanaka and Awesome teamed up to pin Taz in 2:00 after Awesome hit a frog splash from the top turnbuckle. Many of the ECW wrestlers were on the ramp during the match watching the bout. Tanaka and Awesome then renewed their feud – which they started in ECW rings during the summer of 1998 – by practically killing each other for the next 11 minutes. Awesome creamed Tanaka with an Awesome Bomb through a table and got the pin at 13:46. Taz then came back to ringside, kissed the belt and presented it to its new owner for a huge pop from the crowd.

tommy dreamer (with francine) and raven (c) vs. steve corino and rhino (with jack victory) for ecw world tag team title

Joel Gertner interviewed Tommy Dreamer, who was accompanied by Francine, about the status of both his injured back and the ECW tag team title, which he held with his enemy, Raven. Dreamer said he was not listening to the doctors anymore and that he was in Chicago to fight. Steve Corino came out with Rhino and Jack Victory and degraded Dreamer on the mic. Corino then sent Rhino in to attack Dreamer. Dreamer dominated Rhino until Corino came back to ringside with a ladder. Rhino got the upper hand and as he was about to put Dreamer away, Francine ran in and attacked him. Rhino slammed her to the mat. Then out of nowhere, Raven appeared and hit a DDT on Rhino. Raven and Dreamer then hit DDTs on Corino and Victory and pinned them both, retaining the titles in 3:23.

rob van dam (with bill alfonso) vs. balls mahoney for ecw world television title

Before the main event, Axl Rotten welcomed Mike Awesome back to ECW and said he would like a shot at Awesome's heavyweight title. Lance Storm, Justin Credible and Johnny Smith came out and said Rotten was out of line for asking for what was theirs. The Impact Players said they should get the first title shot at the new champion. When they ordered Rotten to rescind his challenge, Rotten chose to fight even though he was outnumbered. Balls Mahoney and Spike Dudley appeared and cleared the ring, with Mahoney knocking Smith out of his scheduled main event match against Rob Van Dam by nailing Smith in the head with a chairshot. Rotten then took the mic and said Van Dam needed a new opponent and suggested the champ put the title on the line against Mahoney. Van Dam, with manager Bill Alfonso, accepted the challenge. Mahoney and Van Dam brawled around ringside for the first five minutes of the match. Once back in the ring, they traded their extensive arsenal of moves, with both men scoring numerous near falls. Near the end, Mahoney hit Van Dam in the head with his signature "Anarchy Rulz" chair, but Alfonso broke the count when he entered the ring and hit Mahoney with a chair shot of his own. Mahoney retaliated with a chair shot on Alfonso and prepared to hit Van Dam with another. However, Van Dam sprung in the air and nailed Mahoney with the Van Daminator, getting a two count. Van Dam then climbed to the top rope and hit the five star frog splash to retain his title in 19:36. After the match, the men embraced and the crowd cheered. ecw



BUMPS

by Donny Laible

I have to begin this column with a confession.

When I first learned of **Joel Gertner**'s pairing with **Joey Styles** on Extreme Championship Wrestling's TNN broadcasts, I thought it would be disastrous for the Brooklyn, N.Y., resident. Apologies are being served up on a silver platter, thank you.

It was just that I enjoyed Gertner's introductions and one-liners and the reaction they touched off to his audiences so much, it appeared he would fall victim to oversaturation. And with increasing hours of wrestling on television, who among the average, curious viewers would take the time to get friendly with a new character finding his way into their living rooms?

Joel Gertner provides comic relief on TNN.

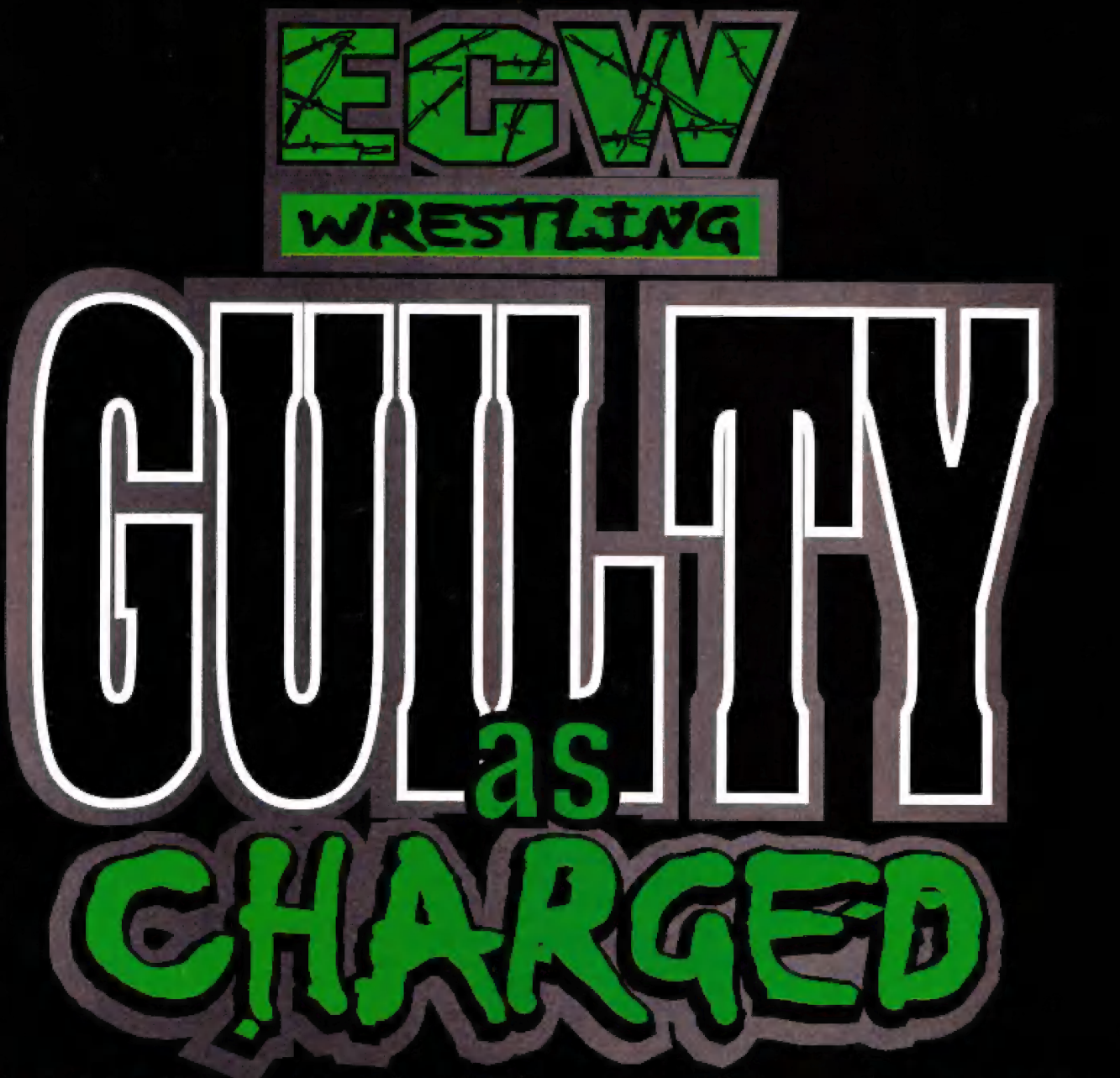
But Gertner, who proudly adheres to the self-proclaimed tag the **"Quintessential Stud Muffin,"** has made a remarkably smooth transition from arena microphone to television studio. His tirades, more often than not politely delivered and equally politically inciting, have caused many to laugh long and hard in arenas. And I'll argue that they are in most instances more entertaining than some matches presented elsewhere that your remote clicker can locate. Gertner's uncanny ability to put his finger on the pulse of who's hot and his matter-of-fact delivery have made him must-see-TV material.

His break came when **Lance Wright** exited ECW for Connecticut's answer to the Oakland Raiders of old – the World Wrestling Federation. From ring announcing to spokesman for **The Dudley Boyz**, what wasn't there for guys and girls listening to get annoyed by? Just look at him. In a Manhattan employment agency, Gertner could easily be mistaken as a portly, well-tipped waiter misplaced from a posh hotel. With **Buh Buh Ray** and the Boyz, it was hilarious how Gertner received no respect from those who caused great fear to him. Gertner's 10-minutes-or-longer riotous intros forced painful and at times Disney-like smiles to his mug. His unpredictability has always been his trump card in reaching out and touching his audiences. This is mandatory now more than ever to keep all the weekly TV viewers happy.

The screeching screams piped out by the girlie man must bring back memories of someone you knew who was repeatedly roughed up for their lunch money in a schoolyard. And the neck injury? Please! The permanent purple neck horse collar is a fine fixture, bow tie included. Gertner is one rotating kaleidoscope of accents that continually forces you to give high-fives to anyone close to you when viewing an ECW event.

There's the **Alec Baldwin** hair and hints of a **George Steele** shaggy chest. It's dorky clashing with dapper. Ah, what a damn fine entertaining package. Speaking with a purpose, Gertner doesn't overstay his verbal welcome, a trait more seasoned commentators haven't caught on to yet. The childlike mimicking and rolling of his eyes on hour two of TNN's Thrill Zone Friday complements Joey Styles' straight man role wonderfully.

A main event anywhere is an often incorrect and inadequate con used by outdated wrestling microphone men today. The cliche fits with Gertner. His verbal muggings are worth the price of admission alone. ecw



LIVE ON PAY-PER-VIEW
SUNDAY, JANUARY 9, 2000

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the WhistleBlower

by Bill Alfonso

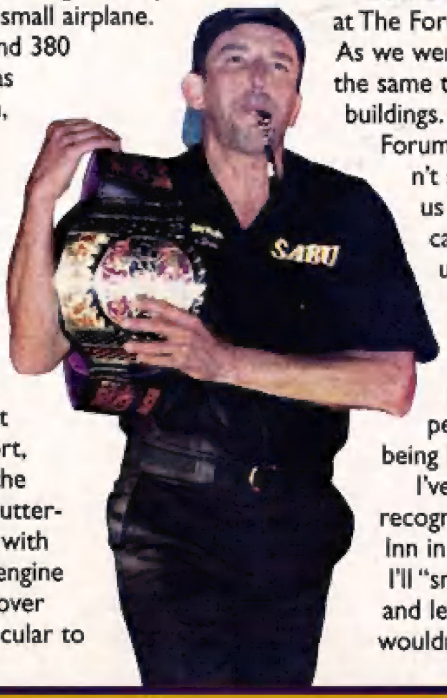
Travelin' Man

The Extreme Championship Wrestling touring schedule is getting intense. We are exploding on TNN, and now have shows all over the country. One week we are in Louisiana, the next we are in Massachusetts. I am back on the road hardcore style, just like it used to be.

Whenever I hear the song "Turn The Page" by Metallica, I always leave it on. It reminds me of the life I have led on the road. With the World Wrestling Federation, I left Tampa, Fla., to do RAW in New York, then spent the next two days driving around upstate New York for shows, back all the way to Newark, N.J., to fly to San Diego for a show that night. After the San Diego show we had to drive to Los Angeles, then fly to Hawaii. We landed in Honolulu, did the show and caught a red-eye to San Francisco to do a matinee. We weren't even in Hawaii for eight hours. As a result of all this rushing around, I have met all kinds of dangers in the air and on the road, even hazards that I wasn't aware were around me until later.

Sweating bullets above Tampa Bay

When I was in Florida Championship Wrestling, we did a television taping on a Wednesday morning in Tampa, and that night we would always have a show in Miami, which was about a five-hour drive. I made that drive for years, but finally I started making enough money where five of us could charter a small airplane. So it was me, **Ron Bass** at around 380 pounds, **Kevin Sullivan**, who was huge, **Superstar Billy Graham**, who was big, and **Oliver Humperdink**, who was fat. He's my friend, so I can call him that, although now he is looking slim and trim. We had a pilot, too.



You have to remember that these are small, twin-engine, older planes. We got over downtown Tampa, about five minutes away from the airport, so we were 3,000-4,000 feet in the air, and the left engine started sputtering. There was something wrong with the fuel line and every time the engine couldn't get fuel we would turn over completely on our side perpendicular to the ground. We kept swinging sideways to normal and we all just started panicking. Humperdink turned white as a ghost. Sullivan couldn't stop rambling, "Oh my God, we are gonna die." Graham just sat there quietly and poured out sweat. Bass was in the co-pilot seat, and I was in the back corner with my fingers crossed. The pilot started hitting all the buttons, and I started radioing, "We've got an emergency," so we hear, "Come back in." Every three or four seconds were kept turning sideways. If we had crashed we would've hit the big buildings downtown.

Finally we could see the runway, and we were all thinking, "We aren't gonna make it." Twenty feet from the runway, the engine totally went out. We hit the runway with a big "BOOM!" Then, somehow, we just stopped. We jumped out of the plane and kissed the ground. We were hugging each other, and we all swore that we would never fly again.

So just imagine this, the next week the pilot calls and says, "Oh, we got the problem fixed," and we jump right back on the same plane. We knew the danger we were in that day, but sometimes you don't even know what risks are around you.

Trip to L.A. was a riot

One time in the WWF, we had a show in Los Angeles at The Forum immediately after the **Rodney King** riots. As we were flying in you could see The Forum, but at the same time you saw the smoke from the smoldering buildings. Only 3,000 or 4,000 people were at The Forum that night because a lot of ticket holders didn't show up, but **Vince McMahon** was pushing us and the show had to go on. So I jumped in a car with **Bret** and **Owen Hart**, and a cop told us not to stop anywhere and to go through any red lights. Fortunately, we were never in the wrong place at the wrong time. Actually, we were all pretty relaxed because we didn't realize until later that buildings were burning, people were being shot and businesses were being looted just a few blocks from us.

I've made a lot of friends on the road. They recognize me at the airport. I once lived at a Ramada Inn in Atlanta for two years. Soon, as the song says, I'll "smoke the day's last cigarette," and go to sleep and leave in the morning to the next town. I wouldn't have things any other way. ecw

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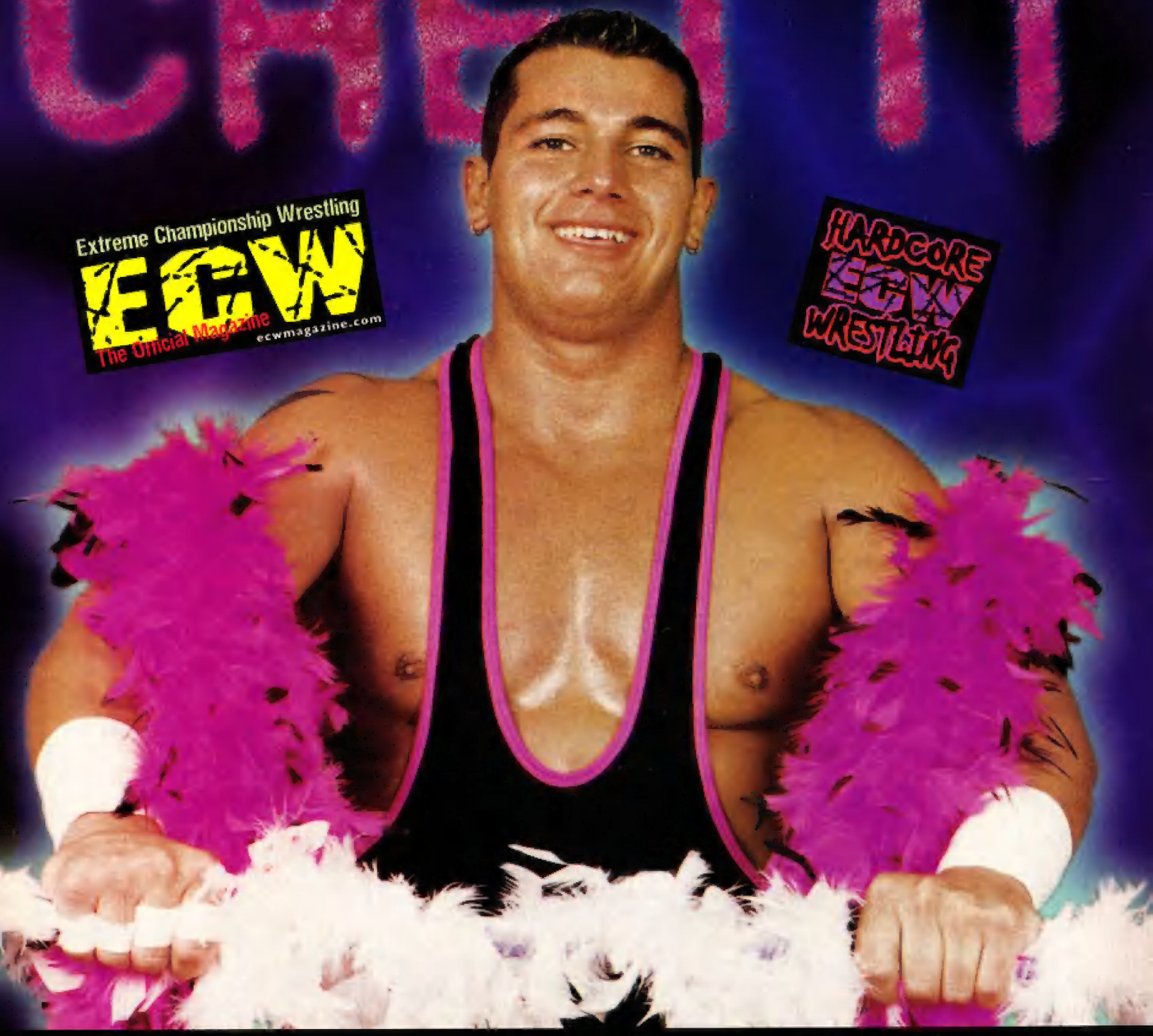

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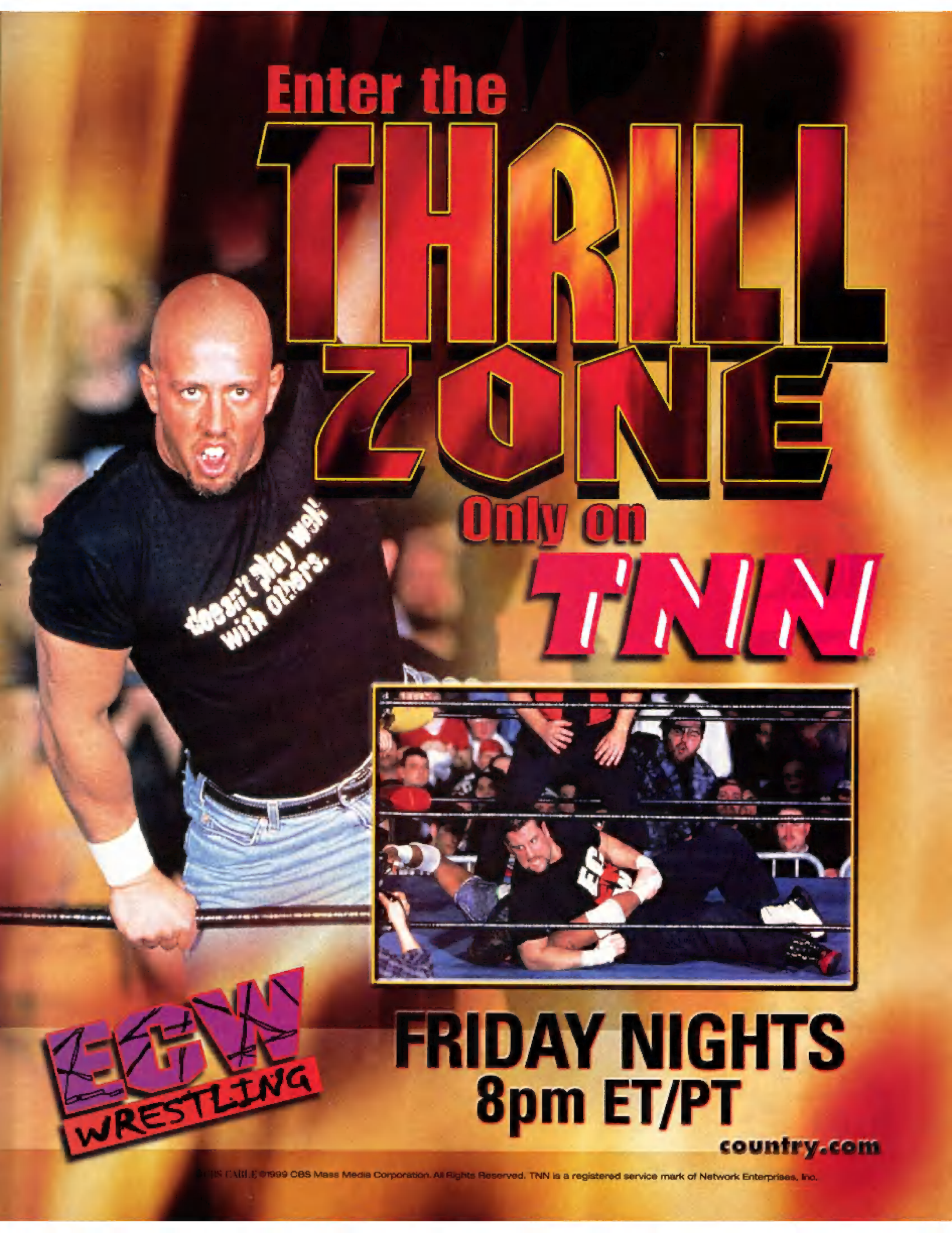
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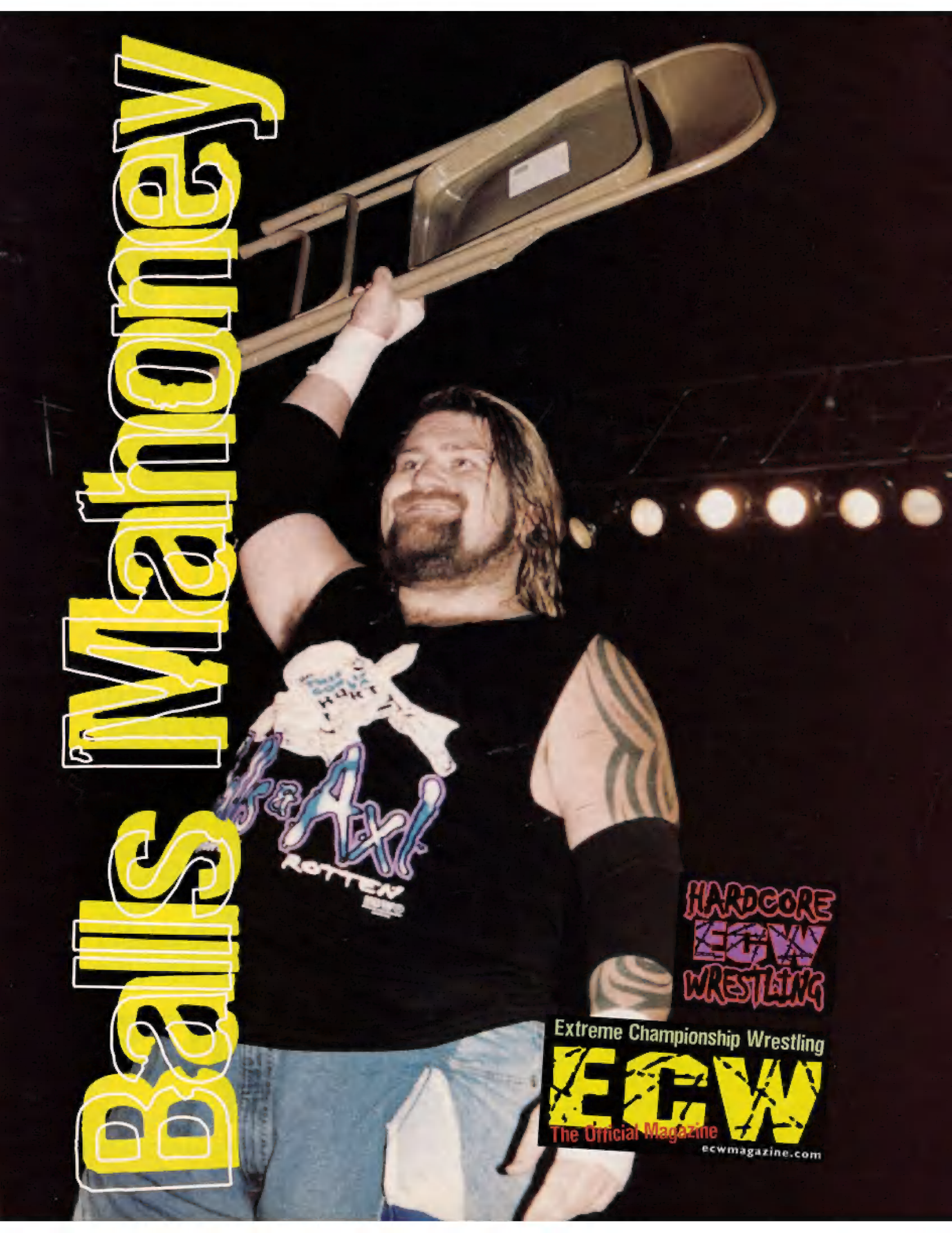

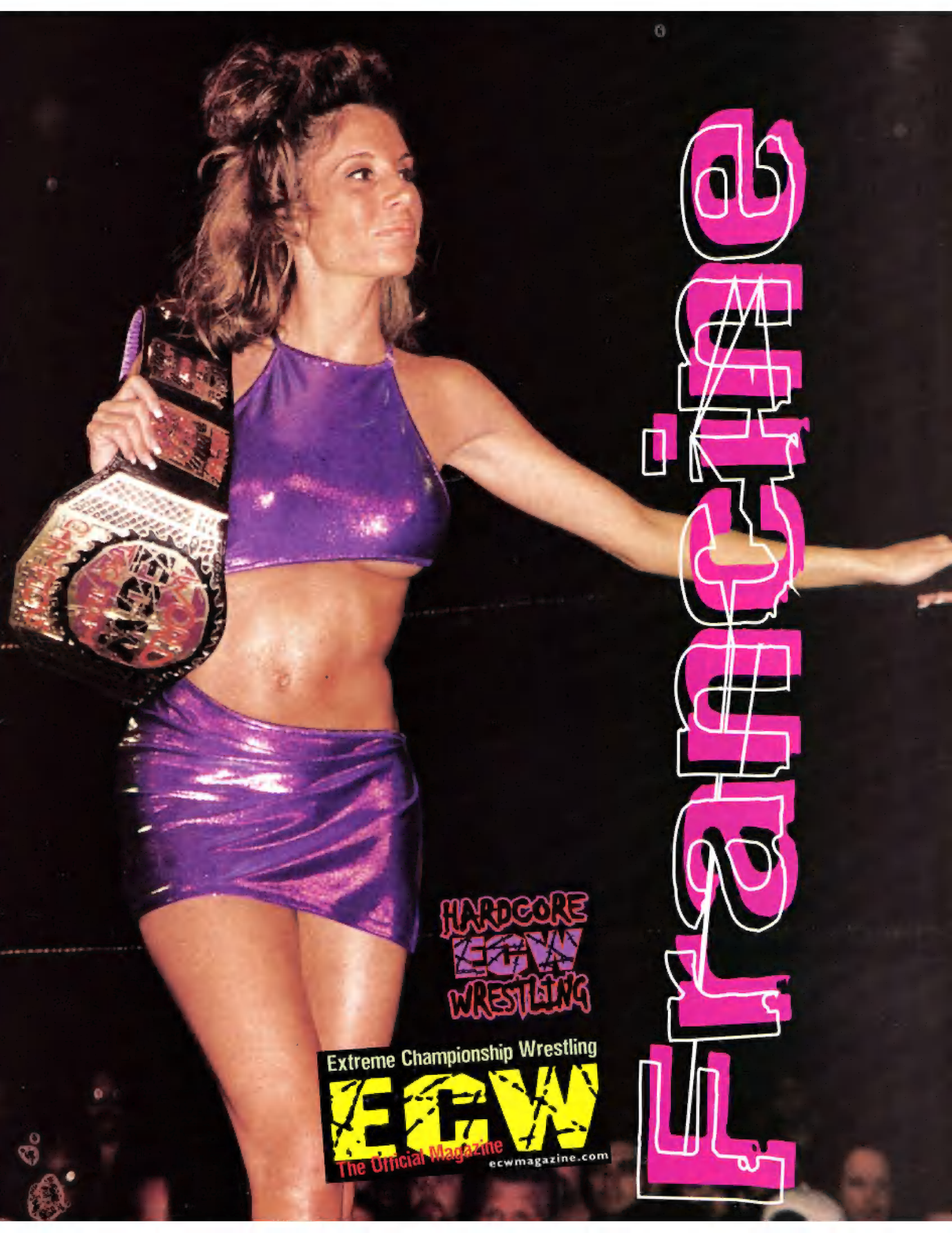
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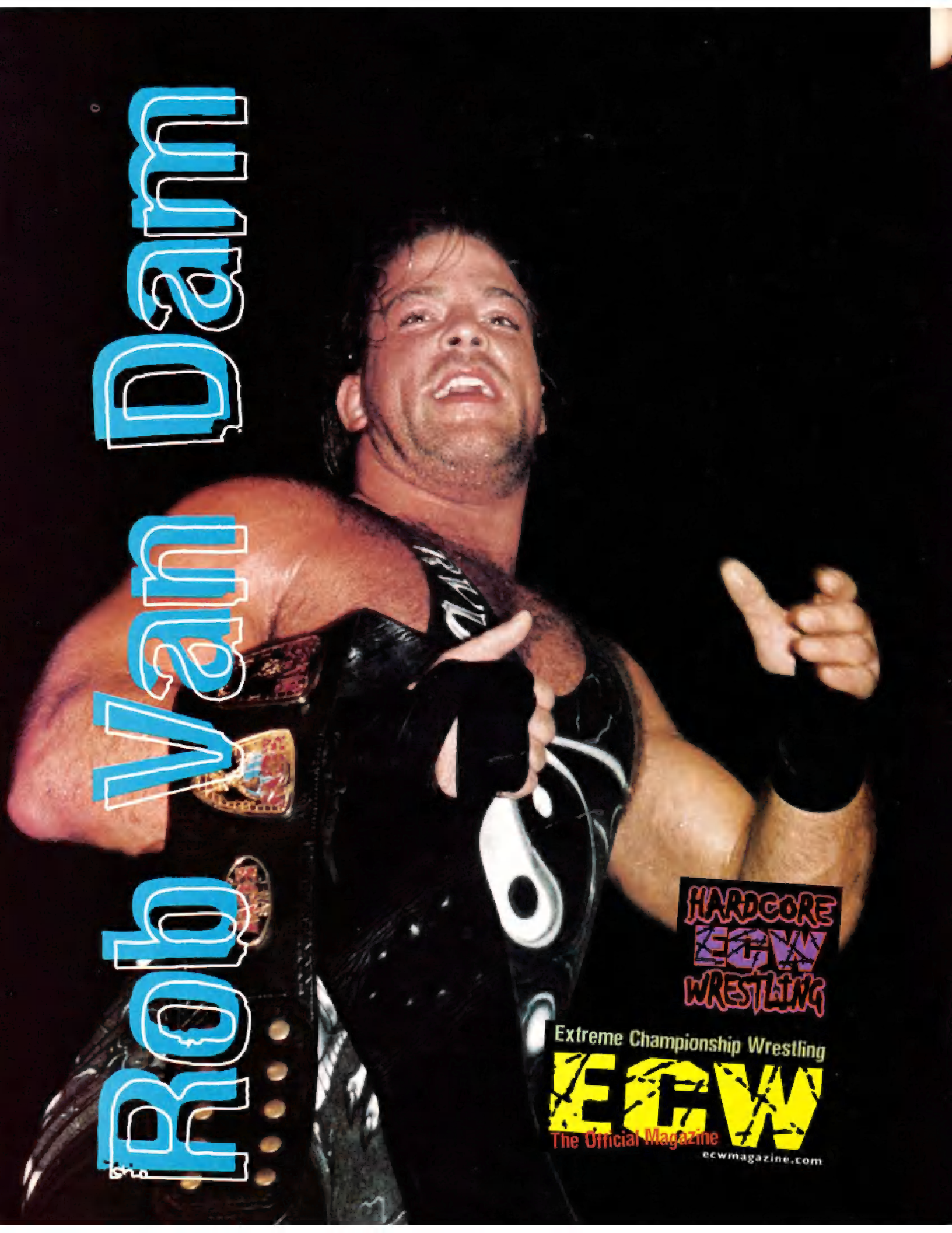
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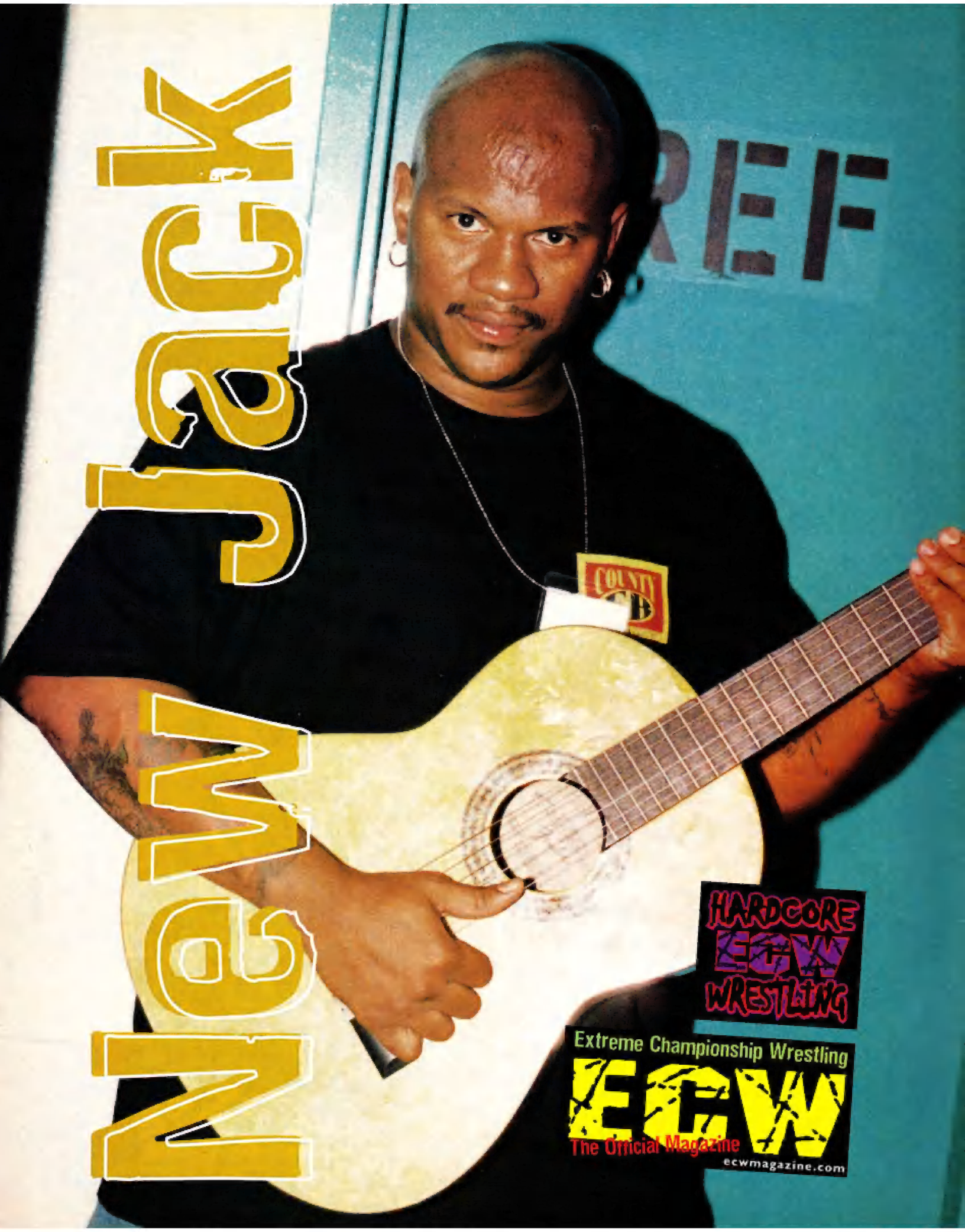
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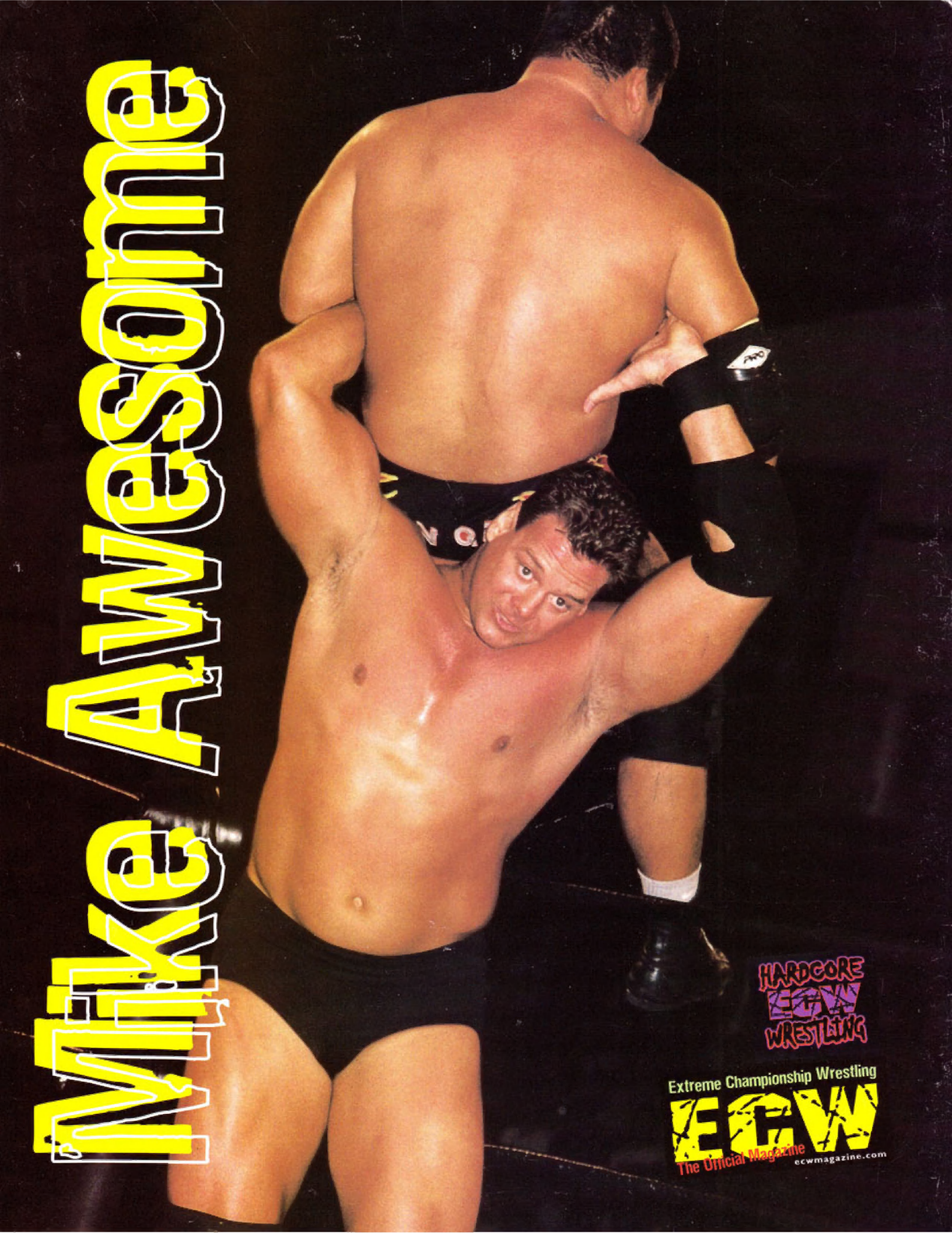

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